



BUSINESSES FACE RATES HIKE PAIN

Report by Sue Austin

A HIKE in business rates across the Oswestry and Welshpool area could hit entrepreneurs hard the region's two MPs have warned – with one firm facing a 300 per cent increase in its bill.

Successful medium sized businesses will be affected the most, the MPs say. Glyn Davies, MP for Montgomeryshire, said he had been talking to firms who had been told their business rates would rise by almost 50 per cent and one in north Powys that is facing a 300 per cent increase. He said successful rural businesses could be worst hit.

In Oswestry companies are also looking at how they will cope with the rise in rates. North Shropshire MP Owen Paterson has written to Communities Secretary Sajid Javid asking him for clarification on the planned rate increases. While the changes in the system, which will come into force next month, mean some businesses will benefit, a survey by the Federation of Small Businesses says a third are expecting their rates to go up.

Effect

Mr Paterson said: "I have been contacted by people in North Shropshire who are very concerned about the effect this will have. We all expected rises of about two per cent, which would have been acceptable, but it seems that many are facing much larger increases. There has been talk of an average nine per cent increase for North Shropshire. That is very high."

Mr Davies said that while in England there was talk of transitional help to soften the blow of the increases, the Welsh Assembly had not, as yet, come up with a similar idea. He said the new valuations took into account a hypothetical rent for properties. He said: "I have been talking to one company in Montgomeryshire which I cannot name, looking at a 300 per cent increase. How can any business deal with that? Successful businesses that have grown because of sheer hard work now face the biggest increases because they are more attractive and the hypothetical rent would be higher. There is no doubt that the re-valuations are going to have a really serious impact on some businesses. Re-valuations had to take place but they should have happened year-on-year so that the jump in costs would not be so high. There are going to be winners and there are going to be losers."

The Farmers' Union of Wales said the increases would affect farmers. Deputy president Brian Thomas said: "What is becoming clearer is the potential knock-on effect this will have on farmers who sell their livestock at markets in Wales. We've heard reports from livestock markets that their rates are about to rise by nearly 100 per cent and when you try and work out how they will pay that bill it is quite clear. The money will come from increased commission in the markets which will therefore hit all farmers."

Festival set to hit the right note once again



Oswestry Youth Music Festival committee clerk Louise Humphreys and the festival's chairman Councillor Cynthia Hawksley admire some of the trophies up for grabs at the hugely popular celebration. Photo: Alan Evans.

HUNDREDS of talented young musicians are in Oswestry this week for the 40th anniversary of the town's annual youth music festival.

The event has not only stood the test of time but has grown over the years into a four-day event taking place in different venues across Oswestry.

Organisers say this year's event is shaping up to be a record-breaking celebration with more than 430 contenders due to take part.

The festival, which began today (Thursday), will see talented musicians up to the age of 21 perform in 74 different categories.

These includes both vocal and instrumental classes and range from solos and duets to bands and choirs, meaning hundreds of talented youngsters will take part in the festival.

As the festival has grown over four decades different categories have been introduced including a popular percussion section.

This year sees the introduction of a piece for the organ in which musicians are invited to give a performance lasting up to five minutes.

The town's youth music festival was first held in 1977 as a one-off event to celebrate the Queen's Silver Jubilee.

It has gone on to attract ever increasing numbers of singers and musicians from across Shropshire and beyond.

Over the years it has become one of the biggest events of its type in the region.

The closing concert of the festival will take place on Sunday and will include the popular winner of winners competition.

To celebrate the 40th anniversary a special concert will be held on Saturday.

Many of the winners of previous years have been invited back to take part in Saturday's landmark event, including the Porthywaen Senior Band.

Sue Turner, musical director, said that the concert would raise funds for the Malcolm Sargent CLIC charity, which helps children dealing with cancer. Tickets are £5 and available from Oswestry Town Council at the Guildhall. The competition classes today, tomorrow and Saturday are held at the Methodist Church, Christchurch and Holy Trinity and entry is free. More details are available from www.oswestry-tc.gov.uk or by ringing 01691 680222.

ECONOMY

Councils to look at ways of revitalising key shopping area

VACANT shops and offices in Oswestry's Cross Street will come under the spotlight when two councils join forces to look at the town's economy at crunch meetings.

The problems of Cross Street, a shopping area with several empty buildings, has been highlighted by Oswestry Town Council and is being looked at by the Oswestry Transport and Townscape group. Now Shropshire Council is offering its help to address the problem and has revealed key meetings will take place next week.

After concerns were raised by the town council, Shropshire Council's building control team recently inspected the external condition of the empty properties on Cross Street, with initial inspections not identifying any dangerous structures.

Mal Price, Shropshire Council's cabinet member for planning, housing, regulatory services and environment, said initial discussions taking place on Monday will be followed by a meeting of the Oswestry Joint Economic Board, the body that enables partnership working between the councils, on Wednesday.

"The meeting on Monday will discuss the issue of long-standing vacant commercial properties in the town, and actions that could result in them being occupied and their visual appearance improved," he said.

● Welcomed – See Page 4

TRAGEDY

Probe continues on couple's deaths

INVESTIGATIONS remain ongoing after a couple were found dead in a derelict cottage near Oswestry.

Officers discovered the man and woman after the alarm was raised on Friday evening.

The house sits next to the busy Maesbury Road at the junction with Weston Lane, on a patch of ground between a depot fence on Maesbury Road Industrial Estate, and the road itself.

Officers say investigations remain ongoing, and they are awaiting the results of the couple's post-mortem examinations.

● Tribute – See Page 5

INSIDE

New moat visitor just swans in



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Law firm acting for families over factory dust concerns

Report by Sue Austin

MORE than 70 families have instructed lawyers to take legal action against a factory near Oswestry

Residents say dust which they believe comes from Kronospan in Chirk affects their everyday lives.

Environmental law firm Hugh James has revealed it is acting for 71 families and will hold a drop-in day today (Thursday) for anyone else that could be affected. Kronospan says it takes its environmental obligations very seriously.

Gwen Evans, partner and head of environmental claims at Hugh James, said: "The evidence we have seen suggests that residents have been exposed to an unacceptable level of dust believed to be emanating from the Kronospan site. Local residents say the dust has been affecting the area for many years - leaving them unable to enjoy their properties as a result. Residents are required to keep their windows closed to prevent dust entering their homes. They are unable to enjoy their gardens and regularly have to wash their cars as a result of a build-up of dust on their vehicles."

"People in these circumstances are entitled to compensation for dust exposure that they have suffered in the past. We are also exploring the potential for an injunction to prevent the continuation of this nuisance in future and to ensure that Kronospan operate the site with due respect to its neighbours and without emitting dust into the neighbourhood. Those affected should contact us for more details if they would like to make a claim." Hugh James will be holding a drop-in open day today between 1pm and 7pm at the Parish Hall in Chirk.

A Kronospan spokesman said: "We take our environmental obligations very seriously and we continue to liaise with Natural Resources Wales and the local authority to ensure that we continue to comply with these obligations. Wrexham County Borough Council and Natural Resources Wales have been conducting independent monitoring of the air quality in Chirk and they have received our full cooperation. The company has a long track record of major investment at Chirk. We are committed to reducing the impact of our activities on the environment and the local residents and, to that end, we continue to invest heavily in modernising the site so as to secure its long term future."

Thousands raised for family hit by fire



The blaze was brought under control by firefighters and now the community has stepped forward with donations for the family

A CARING community has rallied round to raise up to £3,000 in just a few days for a family that lost everything in a major fire at their home during Storm Doris.

Karl Hocking managed to get out of his house in Oldford View in Welshpool on Thursday night after a large fire took hold in an upstairs bedroom and he was taken to hospital suffering from breathing in smoke.

Firefighters arrived at 8.15pm to find flames shooting several feet into the sky and at its peak, five appliances and 20 fire-

fighters were at the scene. Shocked neighbours and friends have since been rushing to help the whole Hocking family - Sue, Mark, Nathan, 22, and Karl, 19, - to get back on their feet, following an appeal on Facebook by one of their caring relatives.

Ceri Gannon, 20, said: "I can't rebuild a home for my auntie Sue and uncle Mark but I want to help them; they have lost everything because of the fire damage and their neighbour Glyn Watkins' property has been damaged too so we want to help him."

"We are not sure what happened but the whole of Oldford Estate had a power cut that night because of Storm Doris."

"Our appeal raised more than £1,000 in just a day; the response has been very humbling."

"When I took Sue some of the money, she burst into tears - they haven't asked for anything but so many people are offering them donations, clothes and household items they have been really touched."

To donate, call Ceri on 07399 562990.

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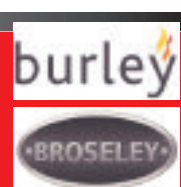


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Allowances for members are frozen

COUNCILLORS in Shropshire have agreed to freeze their allowances for the next financial year.

Members of Shropshire Council will receive a basic allowance of £11,514 a year, with those with special responsibilities receiving more.

Council leader Malcolm Pate said he believed members worked extremely hard for their allowances. "We don't set our allowances – an independent party sets that out and we go with that," said Councillor Pate.

"I think members and those with extra responsibilities work extremely hard for the money. If they did it for outside organisations they would be paid lots more money. I think even group leaders work hard for the special responsibility allowance that they take," he said.

The council's 74 elected members will receive a basic allowance of £11,514 with special responsibility allowances paid to authority leader Malcolm Pate, his deputy Steve Charmley, cabinet members, chairmen of special committees and opposition group leaders – 24 councillors in total.

These range from £5,757 extra to an extra £23,000 for the leader. But Councillor Duncan Kerr said the allowances were far higher than other local authorities nearby. "We could take a 10 per cent cut and still be paid considerably more than other authorities," said Councillor Kerr.

Boy's special toy Elli is missing

AN eight-year-old boy who had a cancer operation five years ago is distraught after the special toy given to him following his surgery went missing.

Luke Jones from Oswestry was given Elli, a specially made toy elephant with a 'magic eye', after his operation when he was just three years old. The elephant, whose one eye can be taken out like children who have had the operation, has been a constant companion ever since.

Mum Laura said: "We were at a friend's house in Middleton Road on Saturday evening and took an eight-seater taxi home."

"I have contacted the taxi firm and they have searched the vehicle with no joy."

Anyone who finds the elephant should ring Mrs Jones on 07969 690462.

Council tax to go up by almost four per cent

Report by Sue Austin

HOMEOWNERS in Shropshire will pay almost four per cent more council tax in the next financial year.

Shropshire Council approved the 3.99 per cent rise at a meeting last week.

It means band D property owners will be paying £1,259.51 for their 2017/18 bill. In total, the precept for the whole of the council area will raise £134,220,817.

The rise is made up of 1.99 per cent allowed each year – the highest figure without calling a referendum – and two per cent solely to be spent on adult social care.

Council leaders also last week warned of more cuts to "very efficient" services unless they receive fair funding from the government.

Councillor Malcolm Pate, Shropshire Council's leader, said: "In Shropshire we charge low levels of council tax, and we have a low council tax base and a low business rate base, mainly due to the county's rurality. Our quality and cost consistently compares well. However, it is because of challenges that our funding gap will continue to increase, despite asking our residents to pay more. We've made clear to the government on a number of occasions the challenging position that Shropshire Council finds itself in, and argued strongly for fairer funding for Shropshire. The unfairness of the current funding formula suggests we will have to cut a wide range of well-managed, very efficient services."

"We need a change in the funding formula. Until we do we won't get a fair settlement."

Council tax rates in Powys will increase by 3.9 per cent in the coming financial year, the county council has agreed.

Meeting at Llandrindod Wells the council approved a cabinet recommendation of a 3.9 per cent increase in council tax along with a budget saving package that will reduce the council's spend by £9.6 million.

The increase will see the cost of an average Band D property rise from £1,090.06 to £1,132.57 – equivalent to 82p per week or £42.51 per year.

Deputy leader and cabinet member for finance, Councillor Wynne Jones, said: "The budget decision will set the council on firm footing for the future and see us well placed to face what will undoubtedly be another very difficult period in local government."

Village castle moat has swan again



Sue Ellis feeds the swan which has appeared in the moat at Whittington Castle. Photo: Alan Evans.

FOR decades swans swam in the moat at Whittington Castle near Oswestry until three years ago when Bill the male had to be put to sleep after falling ill and his mate, Betty, flew off.

Now a new swan has appeared on the water at the picturesque ancient monument and villagers are hoping it is there to stay.

Castle manager, Sue Ellis, said it was believed that the swan was a female.

"She is rooting about along the

banks and acting like a female looking for somewhere to nest," she said. "We think she may have come from Ellesmere as she is very tame and will take bird food out of our hands."

Although there is only one swan local people have not ruled out the possibility of cygnets once again on the moat.

Sue Ellis said: "The 'deed' may already have been done and who knows we could have a single mum at Whittington."

"If that is the case then we will help her all she can if she does sit on eggs." This year Whittington Castle Preservation Trust is celebrating the 10th anniversary of a major restoration of the castle.

The trust stepped in to protect the ancient monument when a developer proposed to take it over and finance its upkeep by building on land at the back.

Now the castle is thought to be the only one in Britain looked after by a band of villagers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Councillor outlines his future plans

THE deputy leader of Shropshire Council has revealed that he will not stand for re-election to his position on the authority's cabinet if he is re-elected in May.

Councillor Steve Charmley has also made it plain he will not be standing for the post of leader of the unitary authority.

The representative for the village of Whittington near Oswestry said that he had served on the council's cabinet for eight years and felt it was time to take a step back.

"I would very much like to continue representing Whittington on the council," he said.

The councillor added: "There is a great deal of responsibility involved in being deputy leader and I feel it is time to hand the reins of that position over to someone else."

Words and art set to combine

WORDS and art will combine for a literature-themed exhibition.

The Willow Gallery in Oswestry will open its Painting with Words exhibition on Saturday, and will be joined by local writers for a special launch evening.

Gallery curator Tereska Shepherd said as part of the literature exhibition the gallery will have a double billed evening of words and sounds from Oswords and The Improvetry Collective tomorrow (Friday).

She said: "Oswords, the local writing group, will be launching their new magazine that will be available to buy on the evening with some extracts from the magazine read by the authors."

Patient treated after road crash

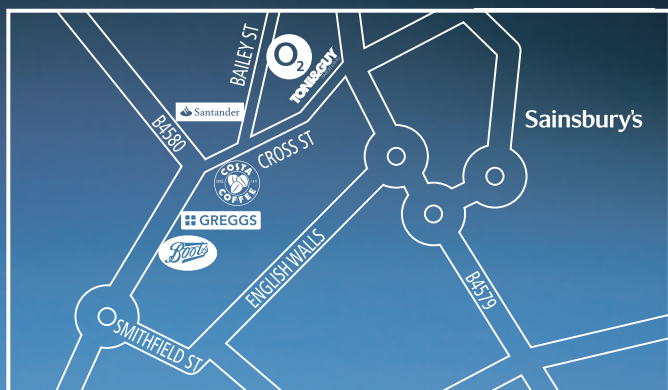
AN ambulance treated a patient after a three-car crash in Gobowen.

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service and West Midlands Ambulance Service were sent to the scene at Chirk Road after the crash at 3.30pm on Tuesday.

Claire Brown, spokeswoman for West Midlands Ambulance Service, said: "We were called at 3.30pm to The Cross in Gobowen to a three-car road traffic collision."

"One ambulance treated one patient."

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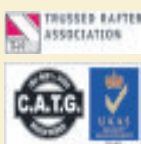
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Lisa Van Vuuren

Caring Lisa aiming for national title

A WOMAN who works with young adults with special needs is to compete for the title of Miss Galaxy England.

Lisa Van Vuuren, 19, who currently holds the Miss Oswestry Galaxy title and works at Derwen College, could get the chance to compete internationally in America if she is crowned Miss Galaxy England at The Park Hall Hotel, Lanchashire on March 12. She said: "I work with young adults with special needs and prior to this, I worked for MD Warriors, teaching children's martial arts. I love working with people and knowing that what I do helps others.

"My role as Miss Oswestry Galaxy has opened many doors for me, and has enabled me to play an active role in my community, and to fund-raise for a variety of charities. Over the past year, I have helped to raise money for the Dot Com Children's Foundation; The Christie Charity and Hope House.

"I have done this through collecting donations at charity events, selling raffle tickets, taking part in a charity fashion show, and by hosting my own Festive Tea Party. I have also donated clothes to CHALK, to help people who are homeless; read stories to children at my local library and walked dogs at Grinshall Animal Shelter. I have thoroughly enjoyed becoming more involved in my local community, and have lots more ideas planned to help local causes in the near future. I think it is really important that we all take pride in our local communities, and help those around us."

New plans for street are welcomed by councillors

Report by Sue Austin

COUNCILLORS have welcomed new moves aimed at revitalising Cross Street in Oswestry.

Part of the street has several empty buildings and plans are being put in place by Oswestry Town Council and Shropshire Council to address the problems.

Mal Price, Shropshire Council's cabinet member for planning, housing, regulatory services and environment, said initial discussions taking place on Monday will be followed by a meeting of the Oswestry Joint Economic Board, the body that enables partnership working between the councils, on Wednesday. He said Monday's meeting would be an opportunity to discuss how the councils can most effectively work in partnership on the wider economic growth agenda.

He said: "The joint economic board will examine the actions available to regenerate the vacant town centre properties – specifically in Cross Street – and it will also be able to bring together the good work already under way in the town that supports local economic growth. Vacant commercial buildings on Cross Street have been an issue of concern to both Shropshire Council and Oswestry Town Council for a significant period of time. Partnership working and a holistic approach is needed to effectively tackle this long-standing issue that brings down the appearance of market town centres."

Board told of mistakes

A PATIENT was not given the correct anaesthetic when being prepared for surgery at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital, while another had the wrong finger prepared for surgery.

Those incidents, which were classed as serious events, happened in January.

Members of the hospital's NHS trust board were given details at their meeting on Thursday last week.

One patient, who had paralysis, was about to undergo surgery when there was a failure to deliver an anaesthetic agent in the anaesthetic room.

The trust board was told that the failure was realised very quickly and righted before the person went into surgery.

In the second incident the wrong finger was incised. The surgical procedure was then carried out on the correct finger and the patient was informed.

● Rated – See Page 8

Oswestry Mayor Paul Milner said: "We appreciate the willingness of Shropshire Council to shape a partnership approach to addressing this problem that is of huge concern to the town council."

Vince Hunt, Shropshire councillor for Oswestry West, added: "There is already a lot of good work being done in Oswestry by people who want to build up the economic vitality of the town. We need to support that work, and also see what can be done where there are specific issues of concern."

● Mosaic – See Page 29

Storm Doris leaves her mark

The van blown over on the Chirk bypass. Photo courtesy of Oswestry SNT.

POWER to homes and businesses was lost, trees came down and some roads were closed in the Oswestry and Welshpool area after Storm Doris hit the region.

During the storm on Thursday last week a van blew over on to its side on the A5/A483 Chirk bypass between the Gledrid and Halton roundabouts. Luckily, no one was injured.

Emergency services had to deal with a tree down on the A5 Oswestry bypass between the Mile End and the Whittington roundabouts.



The wind blew over a high fence at the entrance to Ellesmere's Tesco Store and ripped off slates at the Sainsbury's store in Oswestry, though both remained open.

In Mid Wales both the A490 Welshpool to Guilsfield Road and the A456 Welshpool to Middletown road were blocked for a time with trees and powerlines down.

Cae Glas Park in Oswestry was closed to the public after a tree came down and the British Ironwork Centre also closed its gates to the public because of the high winds. Chirk Castle staff decided on Wednesday the National Trust property would not be opening.

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Friends pay tribute after couple found dead in house

By Sue Austin and Naomi Penrose

FRIENDS have taken to social media to pay tribute to a couple who were found dead in a derelict cottage near Oswestry.

Police officers discovered the man and woman after the alarm was raised on Friday evening.

The house sits next to the busy Maesbury Road at the junction with Weston Lane, on a patch of ground between a depot fence on Maesbury Road Industrial Estate, and the road itself.

Officers say investigations remain ongoing, and they are awaiting the results of the couple's post-mortem examinations, and the coroner's officer said a date is yet to be set for the opening of their inquest.

Man drove without any car brakes

A MAN who drove a car without brakes has been jailed.

Scott Mills was seen in the early hours driving a white VW Polo very slowly in Mid Wales.

Police pulled him over and asked why he was going so slowly.

He said his brakes were not working and that he was using the handbrake to slow down, explained prosecutor Jim Neary.

Interviewed Mills, 42, admitted it was a stupid and daft thing to do.

"It was driving fine but I have been using the handbrake for the last 100 miles," he told police.

But at Flintshire Magistrates' Court at Mold it was claimed that the handbrake had just failed. Mills, of Castle Court, Whitechurch, admitted dangerous driving on the A483 Abermule to Welshpool road on February 5.

He was jailed for nine weeks and disqualified from driving for two years.

Magistrates said that they were premeditated offences which put other road users at risk. He had driven at night so that it was less likely that he would be caught, they said. A police mechanical engineer was called to the scene who confirmed that the brake peddle went straight to the floor and had no effect on the vehicle.

The court heard that he was travelling to deliver some tools and to pick up presents from a farm in Wales.

Defending solicitor Brian Cross said that Mills regarded it as a quasi emergency.



The couple were found dead in a derelict cottage on the outskirts of Oswestry

Crisp entrepreneur dies

THE inventor of hedgehog crisps – who has taught in schools across the region – has died peacefully aged 74.

Phillip Lewis from Welshpool originally came up with the unlikely crisp flavour as a joke, inspired by an old gypsy story of baked hedgehogs.

He left the little popular prickly hedgehogs alone though and instead used pork fat and herbs and first sold the savoury snacks in printed brown paper bags while he was landlord of the former Vaults public house in Welshpool in the 1980s.

The idea drew attention from broadcasters from all over the world and from comedian Billy Connolly who visited the pub.

Mr Lewis's daughter Claire said: "Dad lived for many years in Welshpool and was

best known for inventing hedgehog flavoured crisps in the 1980s.

"He was also a French, music and classics teacher at Welshpool High School, Telford Upper School, Wrekin Boys and Bishops Castle. He was an accomplished flautist and a lover of all things French – including red wine.

"He will be missed beyond words by his five children, partner, brothers, sister and friends."

His crisps later went into mass production with the Bensons crisps company in South Wales.

Hedgehog foods followed with more crisp flavours and flavoured spreads with a base on the Welshpool Industrial Estate, before the hedgehog crisps label was bought out.

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Leek and cauliflower Welsh rarebit tart, rocket, mustard dressing

Main Courses

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A galette of roasted courgettes, tomato and grilled Halloumi and a red pepper coulis

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BREEZE ABOUT TOWN

Local residents have slammed Welshpool's latest supermarket developments as a "blot on the landscape".

They are shocked at the sheer size of the buildings going up alongside the Montgomery Canal.

And while you have to agree that the Aldi and B&M stores now appear bigger than we ever imagined you also have to accept that there's a price to pay for bringing such big names to the town.

What concerns me is that many of those now taking to social media to decry the appearance of the two new stores are the same ones who have been calling out for more shopping opportunities.

The same people who go to print to say Welshpool has nothing to offer.

Well you can't have it both ways.

Let's all hope that once this development is completed it won't look quite as stark as it does at the moment and that the benefits will far outweigh the drawbacks.

Personally I can't wait to test the wider range of goods which will be on offer.

.... I attended an interesting reception in Welshpool Town Hall last week.

It was thrown by the town council to thank those who volunteer to support so many good causes in the town.

I realised just how grateful we should be to these good people.

From manning gates at the annual airshow, helping the elderly, delivering meals on wheels and to simply picking up the rubbish we drop on our streets Welshpool is indebted to this growing band of volunteers.

Revelations that a weekend blaze at Shrewsbury's Theatre Severn was caused by a tumble dryer reminded me that my own appliance may be at risk.

It's some time back now that there was an announcement that millions of dryers had been identified as high risk and manufacturers promised to inspect them all – some job that.

Well they haven't been to inspect mine yet and the manufacturer had the bare cheek this week to send me a letter offering to insure the product for £67 for the next 12 months.

They must be having a laugh.

.... On a lighter note, as a lifelong fan of Wolverhampton Wanderers I was shocked to see the heading on social media that 16 members of the first team squad had tested positive for drugs abuse.

But after defeat to close rivals Birmingham City it's great to read that the Football Association has ruled out any chance of the drugs being performance enhancing.



The internet can be a vast learning resource if used in a positive and safe way



There are dangers for children surfing online – but there are positive steps parents can take



Parental controls can help protect children – but it's important to talk to youngsters

Helping children stay safe on the worldwide web

Parents can take steps to make sure children can use the internet safely – without being put in danger

FROM homework to games and connecting with friends, the internet is a huge draw for children and a valuable modern-day resource – but it's also a potentially dangerous place to hang out.

While technology continues to change and evolve, the principles of keeping young people safe are the same online as they are offline.

North Shropshire College in Oswestry has been busy stressing the importance of e-safety to students through a mandatory e-safety quiz.

This was done for Safer Internet Day last month and held in collaboration with the UK Safer Internet Centre to promote the safe and responsible use of technology.

Senior tutor at the college Sally Jones said: "E-Safety is a critical aspect of the tutorial program at North Shropshire College. Students have covered a range of e-safety topics since September including extremism, radicalisation, online grooming, safe use of money and spoof websites.

"There are now more ways than ever before to create, edit and share videos and images online.

"The aim of the tutorial programme is to ensure that our students are equipped with the skills they need to have a safe and positive time online."

Marked in more than 100 countries, Safer Internet Day saw North Shropshire College join hundreds of organisations right across the UK and globally to 'be the change' and help create a better internet.



North Shropshire College tutor Sally Jones explains about internet safety

Good internet safety is all about positive parenting, according to the Open University's Jenny Simpson of the Faculty of Health and Social Care.

Here are seven top tips to keep your children safe online.

Positive parenting is key

You can only drive children around for so long before you have to let them take the bus alone. The same principles apply when children and young people are online, says Jenny. Keep an open dialogue with your children, let them experiment in a safe environment, talk about what they're doing and make it clear they can come to you and talk to you about anything.

Foster good habits online

As well as talking to your children about using the internet, you need to lead by example. Sit down with them, surf the net together, talk about the

information you find, ask them about headlines and what they believe to be true. The more you do together, the more you'll understand how your child makes use of the Internet.

Factor in age and development

Children can surf the net and engage with online games from as young as three or four years old. At this age the internet and devices like tablets can aid development, helping children get to grips with colours, shapes, letters and numbers. Set parental controls so young children can't accidentally view something they shouldn't and surf the internet together.

Adolescence is often a time of experimentation and learning as they go, particularly in terms of relationships and identity; it's all part of developing into an adult. You can help by setting sensible parental controls, bookmarking reg-

ularly used sites on family devices, and talking to them about online activity.

Set controls but don't forget to talk

There are a wealth of tools, technologies and apps out there that can help keep children safe online, but don't make it all about restricting them. While there may be apps out there to turn the home wifi off in an evening while you're out for dinner, remember there's a balance to be reached.

Children will sometimes find alternative ways of gaining access to the internet, outside of the home. This can be happen through the use of their friends' mobiles and in public places like your local library. Therefore, it's important that your child is just as safe online when away from the family home as they are within it. This requires a sensitive balance between the use of apps and trusting your child.

Make it a family affair

Show children good ways to use the internet: bookmark regularly used "safe" sites so they don't have to search and get distracted by adverts and pop-ups. Set up joint playlists and accounts for music. Do research together and try apps out on each other. The more you use the internet as a family – and talk about it – the more confident children will feel to experiment safely.

Report suspicious activity

Remember, you're not alone. There is a wealth of information available on safer internet use and plenty of ways you and your children can report suspicious activities. If there's anything you're not happy with, or you're uncomfortable about the behaviour of other people online, report it. You can report it directly to the site being used and to a variety of third-party organisations.

No such thing as a typical victim

Research shows that those who are vulnerable offline are vulnerable online, says Jenny. Who's to predict a moment or period of vulnerability in the life of a child?

WORKING FOR YOU



The issue that currently causes me most concern as an MP is the humanitarian refugee crisis facing much of our world as a result of conflict.

Some of these conflicts cause huge increases in the movement of people away from problem hotspots, attracted by promises (invariably false) of a better world elsewhere.

These promises usually turn out to be empty and dangerous.

Even though the scale of warfare in our world continues to fall, modern means of communication, carried on comparatively inexpensive mobile technology, greatly worsens the refugee crisis.

It's only going to get worse.

It's inevitable that there will be hundreds of millions of people fleeing the brutality of terrorists and drought.

There has been much publicity and campaigning to allow refugees from fellow EU countries into Britain.

Many constituents have written to me, supporting this course of action. I have resisted this, simply because I cannot accept it is the most effective way to help. I have always believed that the UK should take in more refugees than we have done, or have promised to do, but it should always be from where we can have the best humanitarian impact.

We should be guided by the scale of disaster and our capacity to help rather by what our media covers.

The BBC gives most coverage to where it can safely take its cameras.

This week, I met with former EastEnders star Ross Kemp, who has created a very powerful film outlining the position in Libya.

Libya is on the point of being a 'failed state' where there is no government.

It's being run by war lords on a tribal structure. Human rights do not exist. The status of women is particularly awful. Into this environment step traffickers, promising transfer to Europe in return for all of their money. They are then put into unseaworthy boats and sent out to the Med. If they progress out of Libyan waters, they often sink. No-one knows about them. If caught in Libyan waters they are dumped on the border.

This lawlessness may well lead to Nigeria, where the population is over 100,000,000. About ten million Syrians have been displaced during the current conflict. Many have died, or been killed by Assad or Russian forces. After meetings with activists who know the area, I became convinced that every penny that Britain can contribute should go to where the need is greatest. That is the most humanitarian response.

Glyn Davies
Montgomeryshire MP

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WILL MY HUSBAND'S ADULTERY ENTITLE ME TO MORE OF OUR ASSETS IN A DIVORCE?

Q: I have recently discovered that my husband is having an affair. We have been married for 25 years and have two grown up children. We both work full time and we own our home, which is free of borrowing. We have no other assets. He wants the house to be sold so that he can start again with his new partner. Given that his affair caused the breakdown of our marriage, do I have to agree this? Am I not entitled to more from the assets because of his behaviour?

A: Whilst you will need to allege 'fault' on the part of your husband to obtain a divorce without waiting for a period of at least 2 years, this will not affect finances in any way. Conduct will only be taken into account in so far as a financial settlement is concerned where the actions of one party are very extreme, or where they have tried to hide assets or spend money to stop the other party benefitting. Adultery will not be a consideration.

The Court will identify each party's assets and liabilities and will also look at earnings. The starting point is an equal division of net assets. Where minor children are involved their welfare will be a priority. In your case, with no young children and equal earnings, it is likely that a Judge would order that the house be sold and the proceeds split equally between you and your husband. Alternatively, if eligible, one or other of you could look to take a mortgage to pay to the other their share of the equity in the property to avoid a sale.

In the interim you should consider making a Will (you will need to check how the beneficial interests in the house are held) and reviewing any joint bank accounts.

This question has been answered by Linda Hill, a Senior Solicitor with GHP Legal. For an appointment visit www.ghplegal.com or contact one of our offices: Oswestry 01691 659194, Chirk 01691 777949, Wrexham 01978 291456, Llangollen 01978 860313. We also offer free legal diagnostic clinics (no appointment necessary) as follows: Employment – Wednesdays 12.00-3.00 in Oswestry; Mondays 09.30-12.00 in Wrexham. Personal Injury and Family matters – Wednesdays 12.00-3.00 in Oswestry; Mondays 12.00-3.00 in Wrexham. GHP Legal is authorised and regulated by the SRA 51566, and Lexcel Accredited.



Letters

So what does charity really mean?

IT seems that a lot of the general public are fooled by the word charity.

The amount of brochures delivered over the Christmas period to do with charities was massive, yet not on any of the brochures that I received did it state what the salary was of the chief executive or boss was, a lot of these people are members of the establishment and are paid far more than our Prime Minister.

It recently stated in the papers that some of these bosses were on over £300,000 per year, and that the charities that these people were head of were being given millions of pounds out of the foreign aid budget and

this comes out of the public pocket as tax. On top of these fabulous salaries they also get expenses and a pension, now that is what I call charity beginning at home.

All charity documentation should show just what the bosses remuneration is, people might think twice then before donating to that charity. These salaries are only one of the things that happen and result in only a minuscule amount reaching the people in need of it – the rest is creamed off by the establishment in what they term as admin fees, the establishment never give away anything, it is just not their way of life. When the bosses salaries come down to a realis-

tic figure, that is in line with current wage standards, then you may be able to call it charity. A lot of ordinary people give their time free in helping out with collections and working in charity shops, and I admire them for it, but the boss way up the ladder just takes them for granted. We still give aid to China and I suppose that some of it could have been behind the massive transfer fee offered to a certain soccer player. It was £80 million plus and worked out at over £600,000 per week. Do you honestly think that China needs our charity?

MR K BEDDIS
Via email

The UK's health services really are facing a massive crisis

BOTH Jeremy Hunt and Chris Hopson, CEO of NHS Providers, claimed that the problems in the NHS, e.g. waiting on a trolley for 35 hours and dying of a heart attack before being found a bed, is not a 'humanitarian crisis'.

The fact that, 'high ranking officers' are attempting to downgrade the most damaging and traumatising problem ever to have hit the NHS since it was 'born' in 1948, is surely as shameful, if not unforgivable as 'dereliction of duty gets'!

Chris Hopson claimed that, "all NHS staff where absolutely working their hardest". With slavery abolished in the 19th century, why should anyone, especially people who've worked their absolute hardest to get the qualifications needed, for the most compassionate job on the planet, have to shed blood, sweat and tears, while Britain's 'fat cats' earn £1,000 per hour?

The worst of it is that, hospitalisations from self-harm and eating disorders have doubled in the past three years, and in some parts of the country, rates of childhood depression, anxiety, self-harm and eating disorders are up by 600 per cent. The average onset age for depression was 45 in the 1960s. Today it is age 14. Meanwhile, child and adolescent mental services have suffered budget cuts of £85m since 2010. Mental health problems now account for one in every three GP consultations. Should Jeremy Hunt and Chris Hopson resign?

ALLAN RAMSAY
Radcliffe

Other issues to worry about

IF letters to the papers are a guide to the important issues that concern folks then, it's Brexit, A&E, NHS and local councils mainly.

These are important. But shouldn't we get really angry about issues like sexual abuse of children, domestic violence, drunkenness leading to violence on the street and towards emergency staff?

We should be concerned about the rising numbers in our prisons, crying over the millions of refugees, 4,000 drowned in the Med in past year.

A newspaper quoted an Ofsted report saying that primary school girls faced a barrage of predatory sexual and abusive behaviour, and even worse at secondary level. We should be appalled that our children are being perverted and scarred for life.

Come back Mary Whitehouse. She was sneered at by the liberal establishment as she campaigned against pornography.

Some Christians joined in but to our shame we gave up.

We should be weeping, praying and fasting against the ungodliness and immorality which is destroying so many lives and the very fabric of our society.

Everyone should fear the fire of God's judgement on our nation.

RON JONES
St Martins

Dig was a chance to explore town's history



The search was on in January 1985 for further traces of Oswestry's ancient history. Plans to create the Festival Gardens amenity area on Oswestry's Royal British Legion car park had provided archaeologists with a chance to delve into the town's past. Before work started on the borough council scheme members of the Border Counties Archaeological Group, led by Dr David Hill of Manchester University, were busy gleaning as much evidence as they could from a dig across the car park about the medieval wall and ditch which once encompassed the town. David Hill is on the right and two of the first visitors to the dig were Councillor John Pritchard, left, and Bill Wren.

Queen should be speaking out on the EU situation

RUMOURS that the Queen would be happy to cut ties with the EU come as no surprise.

In fact it would be very surprising if our reigning monarch is at all pleased with the way the sovereignty of this nation is being eroded away and supplanted by EU domination.

Surely this must be affecting her own position?

The prospect of relegation to that of the regional head of the UK bit of Europe would surely be unacceptable in the event of Britain becoming even more embroiled in European unity. So why can she not say so?

Is there something in the Magna Carta that demands she forfeits her freedom of speech?

Lord Mervyn King has no such inhibitions.

Having obviously delved thoroughly into the facts, he has concluded that we will be billions of pounds better off outside the EU.

JOHN BELCHER
Via email

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST

Readers' Letters,
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chronicle.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Frenzy about Trump election

HAS there ever been a time when the left wing in the media have been in such a frenzy over an American election?

America has just seen the back of one of the worst presidents they have ever had and voted against a candidate who wouldn't notice the truth if it was around the Hollywood hill top. The constant trawling for dross and reporting of unsubstantiated "evidence" against Trump is almost unbelievable.

ADRIAN WILLIAMS
Bratton

Lasting memories of the funny old days on the buses

IN reference to a nostalgia photo published in the Chronicle recently, I don't have any memories of Peel's Garage, Whittington, other than Mr and Mrs Peel were very nice people.

Hampson's Coaches I do, I worked for them for 10 years in the office in Beatrice Street, booking coach tours.

The coaches were kept at the Red Lion pub (which they had as well) on the Bailey Head, Oswestry.

I used to be a conductress twice a day fetching school to Oswestry. I had Andy Lloyd (famous cricketer) and Rosemary Leach (TV actress) on the bus, and the bus terminus was in King Street outside the Wesleyan Chapel.

Just one funny memory – I was conducting on a Saturday night taking people to the Garrison Dance Hall at Park Hall Camp, the bus was so full I couldn't get right down the bus to collect the fares, and when we got to the Garrison, they just opened the back door, jumped out and ran.

SHEILA LYNDOM
Gobowen

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Company fined for water rule breach

A COMPANY which connected a standpipe to the water main has been fined £500.

Pave-Aways of Knockin near Oswestry had set up the apparatus on a building site on the Offa's Dyke Business Park at Buttington, near Welshpool. Magistrates in Welshpool found the company guilty in its absence of attaching a pipe to a main, belonging to Severn Trent.

The company was also ordered to pay £2,441 costs and a £50 victim surcharge. Natascha Gaut, prosecuting for Severn Trent, said the water company appreciated that there were times when an extra water supply was needed and so had a system of supplying official standpipes.

These had a meter so that a charge could be made for the water but also a special valve system to ensure that the main water supply could not be contaminated. An investigator for Severn Trent went to the site in October and found a standpipe with Pave-Aways marking on that had been attached to the water supply.

Arla Foods release its latest figures

THE weak pound and struggles of the dairy industry hit UK revenues for Arla Foods last year, the company has announced.

But the farmer-owned dairy giant grew revenues from its cheese division, which includes a major packing plant in Oswestry, and its branded products performed well.

Overall revenue in the UK decreased from 2.5 billion euros (£2.1bn) in 2015 to 2.2 billion euros (£1.86bn) last year, because of lower global market prices and poor exchange rates. Arla's speciality cheese brand Castello accelerated its growth in 2016 to 18 per cent, compared with 6.7 per cent.

The Denmark-headquartered company produces own-label cheese for most of the major UK retailers.

Orthopaedic hospital rated highly in survey

Report by Sue Austin

OUTSTANDING levels of care on offer at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital have been highlighted in a national survey.

Of 83 NHS hospital trusts that took part in the adult inpatient survey, the Gobowen-based hospital was the only one at which 97 per cent of patients rated their care as seven out of 10 or higher.

Other key findings were that 97 per cent of patients had complete faith in their doctors, while 95 per cent said they were treated with respect and dignity. Cleanliness was praised with 100 per cent saying their room or ward was very or fairly clean.

Of the 1,242 patients who were asked to complete the survey at the hospital, 824 returned it, a response rate of 66 per cent, well above the national average of 41 per cent. Mark Brandreth, chief executive of the hospital, said: "The results of this survey really do make great reading. It reflects the commitment, the dedication and the skill shown by staff in all areas of our hospital."

"We see and hear so much about the pressure the NHS is under at the moment and the difficulties it faces, but these results remind us that there is still so much that we can be proud of. Feedback like this from our patients is very gratifying, but I also know we will not rest on our laurels. We can and will look for opportunities to make continuous improvement to deliver ever better patient experience and outcomes." The adult inpatient survey results are now analysed by the Care Quality Commission, which will issue its own report in May. One below average result was the number of patients who experienced a change in their admission date – 30 per cent against a national average of two per cent.

Endangered trees given a helping hand



Lisa Barlow, Pippa Williams, Richard Kretschmer, Maggie and Simon Baynes and Andy Green

SOME of the most endangered trees in the UK have been planted by volunteers in a community field in an effort to conserve them.

The Cain River Valley Group and Dewi Morris planted seven black poplars in the Cae Bodfach Community Field in Llanfyllin.

The saplings were supplied by Lisa Barlow of the Severn Rivers Trust. The Wildlife Trusts said wild black

poplars have suffered severe decline and it is estimated that only 8,000 now exist in the UK, only 400 of them female.

Their decline has been caused by a lack of suitable wetland habitat and the removal of trees because their seeds have been considered a nuisance. But The Wildlife Trusts are helping this species through veteran tree surveys, planting and sympha-

thetic wetland management. In Llanfyllin, Simon and Maggie Baynes joined Cain River Group members Richard Kretschmer, Pippa Williams and Andy Green to plant the water-loving trees along the banks of the River Cain which runs through Cae Bodfach. Volunteers have been making improvements at the eight-acre Cae Bodfach Community Field since it started in 2013.

Town event will explore importance of human rights

PROMOTING dignity and respect in the workplace is one human right that is too often disregarded, the sponsor of a workshop in Oswestry has said.

The Human Rights Tour will arrive in the town on Thursday next week, as part of a national event organised by the British Institute of Human Rights.

The day will provide a basic introduction to the law protecting human rights in the UK and how it is relevant to everyday lives.

It has been organised in partnership with Fairness, Respect, Equality Shropshire, (FRESH) with Disability Oswestry, the Oswestry Equality Group, Oswestry Welcomes Refugees and others.

Ian Payne, director of event sponsors The Jools Payne Partnership, said: "The issue of respect for human rights here in the UK and indeed globally, is under greater threat than at any time since many of us can remember. We are delighted to support bringing such a prestigious event to Oswestry to shine a light on and raise better understanding of human rights both in the workplace and wider society."

"It fits neatly with our corporate communications and campaigning work, and specifically my role as a HR specialist advising businesses on how best to promote dignity and respect in the workplace."

"This event will be invaluable to anyone who has a people management responsibility, from line supervisors up to HR director level."

The event will run from 9.30am to 3.30pm at The Centre in Oak Street in Oswestry.

There will be a free buffet lunch, and everyone is welcome to attend.

To book a place visit www.bihhr.org.uk/Event/human-rights-tour-oswestryshropshire

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Drink-driver crashed car into a wall, court told

A DRINK-driving farmer whose car was found crashed into a garden wall has been handed a 12-month driving ban.

Police discovered Clive Whittingham's damaged Hyundai at the scene with blood on the airbag, Telford Magistrates Court heard.

The car was registered to the Whittingham family and officers found the 61-year-old at his farm with a cut nose and a blood splattered shirt.

He pleaded guilty to driving the vehicle in Woolston Bank, near Oswestry, while over the drink-drive limit on January 29.

Jenny Winzor, prosecuting, said the collision left the car and boundary wall of the property badly damaged.

She said when police turned up to Sandford House Farm in West Felton, near Oswestry, Whittingham admitted being the driver of the car involved in the collision.

He was breathalysed but failed the test and was arrested.

When breathalysed at the police station, Whittingham was found to have 55 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35mg.

Shaun Davies, representing Whittingham, said he gave police full and frank admissions about what had happened when officers arrived at his farm.

He said Whittingham had gone into town to order a takeaway as he had not eaten at all that day, due to being unwell.

But the court was also told that he had consumed four pints of alcohol during the course of the day.

As well as the 12-month driving ban, Whittingham was ordered to pay a £650 fine, £135 costs and £65 victim surcharge.

Plea is made for public to support opera's visit

Report by Sue Austin

OPERA lovers are being urged to support a touring company's latest visit to Oswestry.

Heritage Opera, North West England's professional touring opera company, is returning to the town on April 30 with a Production of The Pirates of Penzance.

But it says that it will only continue to put on productions in the town if the opera is well supported.

Oswestry saw its first professional opera performances last year with Heritage Opera performing La Boheme and La Traviata.

One of those who helped organised the productions, Mike Coppock, said after great acclaim from delighted audiences, he was pleased that the company was returning.

The Oswestry businessman said: "This will be the largest cast to date in Oswestry and promises to be a highly entertaining evening. However, things are hanging in the balance.

"Heritage Opera relies on tickets sales to cover costs, and although La Boheme delivered a small profit, their brilliant production of La Traviata in November didn't manage to sell enough tickets, delivering a substantial loss.

"Keen to continue appearing in Oswestry, ticket sales for the very popular The Pirates of Penzance will be a 'ticking clock'. Mozart's The Magic Flute is booked for July but its go-ahead will hang on the success of The Pirates."

He urged people to support the production and said tickets were available in the Rowan Thorn shop in Oswestry adding: "It would be a great shame for this fabulous arts feature for Oswestry to end before it can become established."

Tree of Light scheme boosts charities



Rotarians Mike Jones and Ian Haigh present the donation to Connect for Life's Carolyn Lewis, Ruth Watkin and Alison Humphreys

THE Rotary Club of Oswestry has confirmed that donations are to be distributed to a dozen local charities over the next few months, thanks to £6,832 being raised by its Tree of Light Appeal 2016.

The first charity to benefit from a donation was the Oswestry charity Connect For Life, which provides a

support service for mainly older people, in particular those with memory difficulties or dementia.

Up to a dozen people take part in activities provided by the group at the Gatacre Pavilion, between 10.30am and 2.30pm each Wednesday.

The service provides valuable res-

pites for carers, stimulating activities for those with cognitive difficulties and lunch is supplied by Woodside School's caterers.

Oswestry Rotary Club will give further support to people living with memory difficulties when Oswestry Library launches its Shared Memory Bags scheme on Saturday at 1pm.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Poet's family is subject of talk

THE family of soldier poet Wilfred Owen will be explored at the next meeting of Oswestry & Border History & Archaeology Group.

Historian and group chairman John Pryce-Jones will be digging into the ancestry of Edward and Mary Salter, builders of Plas Wilmot. Wilfred Owen's birthplace. The talk will take place on Friday next week at 7.30pm in Oswestry Methodist Church Hall, Castle Street.

Paul Brown, from the group, said: "Oswestry rightly is proud of its connection with Wilfred Owen, born at Plas Wilmot in 1893. His ancestry through the Salter family is well rooted in Oswestry's history. In this talk John Pryce-Jones will re-examine the Salter connection, and take a close look at the family of Mary Simpson, whose husband Edward Salter built Plas Wilmot in 1829.

"It's a story that takes a number of unexpected twists and turns, establishing ancestral links for the poet in other parts of Shropshire and much further afield."

Village lunch club to meet at pub

PANT Lunch Club will be meeting on Tuesday next week.

The village lunch club will be getting together at the Cross Guns Inn to give local people an opportunity to meet, socialise and enjoy a communal meal.

The club, which will meet at 12.30pm, has been set up to give people in the village and further afield an informal way to meet up with other people without having to join or become a member of a formal club.

The pub will offer a choice of lunch items at £5 per person, which includes a hot lunch, tea or coffee.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Free boat trips will be offered

FREE boat trips along a canal are taking place to mark Disabled Access Day.

The day encourages people with disabilities to access facilities near them.

The Heulwen Trust will be providing free boat trips along the Montgomery Canal on March 12 as part of the national event.

The free boat trips will be offered to people with a disability and their carer.

The scheduled two-hour trip will leave from the Welshpool Town Wharf located off the car park beside the Welshpool Tourist Information Centre.

From the car park there is step free access to the boats. The trips will last about two hours. To book a place email info@heulwentrust.co.uk or call James Grieve on 07821 106025 or (01597) 840231.

Valley walk lined up for ramblers

THE Welshpool Ramblers walk on Sunday will be led by Jim Rowley.

It will be a 7/9 mile in the Vyrnwy valley from Dolanog to Pont Robert, on one side of the valley, returning on the other side.

Walkers can opt for longer (9 mile) or shorter (7 mile) alternative routes, meeting for lunch at Pont Robert.

All are welcome but no dogs on the walk.

People should meet at 9.30am in the car park beside the Welshpool Tourist Information Centre (OS grid ref SJ 225075) or at the start of the route in the car park opposite the church in Dolanog (OS SJ 066128) ready for a 10.15am start.

For further information about the walk people should telephone (01686) 650984.

Patient Trevor thanks air crew for saving him

Report by Naomi Penrose

A MAN who was "dead" for almost an hour after suffering a cardiac arrest has visited the doctors who saved him to say thank you.

Prompt life-saving action from colleagues kept Trevor Fletcher alive until the air ambulance team arrived from Welshpool.

Mr Fletcher, 60, fell unconscious at work in Deeside's Toyota Manufacturing UK.

Dr John Glen, an anaesthetist on board, said teamwork at all stages had helped to save Mr Fletcher. He said: "The patient was given first aid and CPR by a colleague, a defibrillator was on hand, paramedics arrived to give more intensive resuscitation and insert a tube to help him breathe.

"The helicopter was able to reach him quickly and had an expert on board, and finally he was flown directly to a specialist cardiac centre.

"Without all these stages, he probably won't have made it - if he had, he would be in a bad way, and certainly not up and about in a few weeks, cracking jokes."

Once Mr Fletcher was stabilised, he was flown to the North Wales Cardiac Centre at Glan Clwyd where he was treated at a specialist laboratory, and then transferred to Arrowe Park Hospital in the Wirral to be closer to his family.

Once he recovered, Mr Fletcher, who lives in Birkenhead, travelled to Welshpool where the air ambulance is based, to meet Dr Glen and the team to say thank you.

His work-mates in the Unite union branch at Deeside donated £250 to the Wales Air Ambulance charity.



Dr John Glen shows Trevor Fletcher the air ambulance cockpit during his visit to Welshpool

Items from museums set for disposal

A RANGE of unique items will be disposed of from a number of museums in Mid Wales and offered up to other museums or auctioned off, it has been decided.

A cobbler's buffing machine, a Raleigh ladies bicycle, circa 1925-1930, and an iron operating table will be some of the items curators across the country will be offered, as museums in Powys look to cut back on their collections.

The decision was made by Powys County Council, after curators from museums in the county, including sites in Welshpool, Llanidloes, Radnorshire and Brecknock, compiled a list of items that could go following an appraisal of their stock.

The review found a number of items have an uncertain provenance, while some were considered to be in a "poor condition" or were deemed not to fit within museums' collection development policies and therefore suitable for disposal.

Now the items will be advertised in the Museums Journal and if any other museums decide they want any items, they will be given to them free of charge.

Digital move by event organisers

ORGANISERS of the Welshpool 1940s Weekend are embracing the digital world in order to reach a wider audience.

A new website has been launched at www.welshpool1940sweekend.co.uk while Twitter users can follow the event @Welshpool 1940s, while the Facebook page is Welshpool Forties Weekend.

This year's event will take place from September 29 to October 1.

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Lottery secures £38m for county

GLYN Davies, Conservative MP for Montgomeryshire, has thanked National Lottery players in the county for their role in raising more than £30 million for good causes, and has urged more local arts, sports, heritage and community groups to apply for National Lottery funding.

This week saw the 'National Lottery in Parliament Week', which aimed to raise awareness of the funding available, and demonstrate how Lottery players' money is changing people's lives and improving their wellbeing.

Since the National Lottery started in 1994, £38,091,132 of funding has gone to 1,686 projects in Montgomeryshire.

Whilst Lottery funding has already made a massive difference in the area, there is still more money available that could be just the ticket for local sports clubs, and arts, community and heritage groups.

Mr Davies said: "National Lottery players have already helped countless local groups, but so many more could still benefit from funding."

Fairtrade group decides to disband

A FAIRTRADE group is disbanding after more than a decade of seeing the number of Fairtrade goods sold in Oswestry grow.

The Oswestry Fairtrade group, set up in 2004, won Fairtrade status for the town in 2006 after a campaign to encourage shops and cafes to sell and use products fair traded, both locally and internationally.

One of its founder members, Judith Haslam said unfortunately group members had moved away or were unable to take part any more and the decision had been made to disband.

"We have done a good job in ensuring Oswestry as a town supports Fairtrade," she said. The group sent its funds, £70, to a national fair trade organisation, Traidcraft.

Architect unimpressed with new developments

Report by Sally Williams

AN architect has slammed the look of the latest developments in Welshpool.

Doug Hughes, of design and planning consultants Hughes Architects, says good work in the canalside wharf area of Welshpool is being let down by developments which are inconsistent with local planning design policy.

Mr Hughes says that while positive enhancements have been made to areas of Welshpool and Newtown in recent years, a spate of commercial and residential developments has brought into question the design standards which have previously helped protect local environments and communities.

"The area around the canal at Welshpool is a prime example," said Mr Hughes. "It's an area for local people and visitors to enjoy - a gateway into the town. There are a lot of older, established properties in the area and high-quality public realm work attracts people into the town. But the retail development work being undertaken close to it has resulted in large retail units not aesthetically consistent or in keeping with the immediate local environment being developed."

Budget food chain Aldi is scheduled to open its major new store in Mill Lane, Welshpool, on April 27. A new B&M store is also being built across the road, bringing another 70 jobs.

Mr Hughes wants to see a local design panel to help enhance such developments with independent, professional advice during the planning process. He said: "Local design panels work with the planning authorities to obtain independent, impartial expert professional and lay informed advice on draft development proposals to improve schemes, not redesign them."

Sports night was a runaway success



The Maldwyn Harriers cross country team proudly accepted the Senior Team of the Year gong

TALENTED athletes of all levels of sport were honoured at an awards ceremony.

The Montgomeryshire Sports Awards, co-ordinated by Powys County Council's sports development team, recognise and celebrate sporting success of individuals and teams.

Junior Team of the Year went to Newtown Dragons Junior Squash

team, while Senior Team of the Year was Maldwyn Harriers cross country team.

The Young Sports Leader award was awarded to Ceri Roberts, while Max Williams gained the U14s award, Amber Owen the U18s award and Adele Nicoll the Senior Sports Personality of the Year.

Services to Sports Awards were also presented to Dave Peters for athletics, Chris Nevill for tennis, and Doug Williams for football.

Schools to be given books highlighting humanism

PRIMARY schools across Shropshire are to be issued with books about humanism as part of an initiative to make children more aware of the philosophy.

The British Humanist Association, which represents non-religious people who ascribe to secular moral codes, is to distribute copies of a book called What is Humanism? to schools across the county.

The book, by Michael Rosen and Annemarie Young, is described as the first book about humanism aimed at children, and features contributions from comedians Stephen Fry and Shappi Khorsandi, novelists Philip Pullman and Natalie Haynes, and physicist Jim Al-Khalili. The books have been paid for by a crowd-funding campaign by the association, and are aimed at children aged from 10 to 13.

The books will be distributed among 5,000 schools across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, but will also be available to other schools on request. Dr Simon Nightingale, chairman of Shropshire Humanist Group, said humanists were non-religious people who look to science and reason to understand the natural world and who make moral decisions based on empathy and concern for others. He said the book would support teachers who want to explore non-religious ethics and humanist world views in religious education lessons.

"This is the first time the BHA has distributed a book to primary schools, and for many schools, it will be the first book about non-religious world views in their libraries," he said. Dr Nightingale said: "Recent surveys have shown that over half the UK population live without religion and among young people it's almost 70 per cent. Of those that live without religion, almost all hold basic humanist beliefs, even if they are don't call themselves humanists."

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Store will help with daily life

Commercial feature

Matthew Main, MD of The Unlimited Company from Simplyhealth is excited to be opening a contemporary new home store selling mobility and daily living aids today (Thursday, March 2) at the Moreton Park Wyevale Garden Centre, Chirk.

Border communities will have a great resource on their doorsteps for face-to-face practical advice about products including electric wheelchairs, rollators, riser recliner chairs and specialist footwear.

Early glimpses of the store design reveal that it will be far more modern than shoppers might expect, with sleek, up-to-the-minute styling to make the environment really fresh and vibrant.

Products have been selected for their aesthetics as well as their practicality – as this is what customers of all ages are looking for.

"I'm hoping people will pop in to see me in our new Chirk shop and we can chat about what's available" says Diane Mottram, Store Manager, The Unlimited Company.

"The huge choice of mobility and daily living products can be daunting, so people often appreciate individual help and recommendations.

"And benefitting from the easy parking and relaxed atmosphere of a garden centre here is ideal for our customers."

Diane Mottram, Matthew Main and The Unlimited Company team are determined to offer people with a disability or limited mobility of all ages a more enjoyable shopping experience and access to the latest well-engineered mobility and living aids products on the market.

The ethos is living without limits.

So what are 'daily living aids'?

Daily living aids are products that help with dressing, eating, cooking, bathing and more. They include grab rails to attach to bathroom



The Unlimited Company's new store at Moreton Park Wyevale Garden Centre will stock a wide range of useful daily living aids

walls, cutlery that is easier to grip and even a 'Bra Angel' that makes fastening a bra easier.

These all help people to enjoy more independence.

And for local rugby enthusiasts who have

experienced some rough and tumble on pitches from Oswestry to Wrexham, the shop offers knee and ankle supports and other sports injury products.

The Unlimited Company's new store will open

today (Thursday, March 2) and can be found just off the A5 at the Moreton Park Wyevale Garden Centre, Chirk Road, St Martins, near Oswestry, LL14 5DG. The telephone number is 01691 774366 and the website is www.



Matthew Main, MD of The Unlimited Company

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The science of a loving hug

Commercial feature

With Mother's Day fast approaching we can all probably remember the hugs our mums gave us as we were growing up.

But do you know there's a science to a hug? A hug can help us combat stress. The average Brit would like six hugs a day, apparently – though most have to settle for two – and who could blame them?

A recent BBC Worldwide survey of 2,001 Brits found the average hug lasts 7.7 seconds, and while most say they'd like nearly six hugs a day, the actual average falls short.

In the survey, 35 per cent said they enjoy hugging as it shows affection and increases bonding, while many said it helps them relax, relieve stress, and gives them a sense of belonging. 'Doctor of happiness and hugging expert', Andy Cope, readily backs this up. He said: "Hugging stimulates the production of oxytocin, a neurotransmitter that acts on the brain's emotional centre.

"It promotes feelings of contentment and reduces anxiety and stress, as well as promoting feelings of devotion, trust and bonding.

"But there's more. A mum's touch even seems to mitigate pain – remember when you were a child and you fell down and grazed your knee? A loving hug made it all go away."

Cope, who's spent a decade studying positive psychology and happiness, notes that hugs can play a role in our health and wellbeing in more ways than we might imagine.

He said: "There's research that indicates hugging releases hormones that are immunoregulatory and have a deep impact on the health of our immune systems."



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Survival skills take centre stage in school woodland

Commercial feature

Year 6 boys from Shrewsbury High Prep School were given the chance to develop their bushcraft and survival skills when they spent a day in the school woodland with Ben Mayho from Wildlife Survival School.

Year 6 girls spent the annual CSI day at the school's senior department as they prepare to move up to Year 7 in September.

With the boys staying at the Prep until the end of Year 8, it was the perfect opportunity to head into the forest and see how much they had picked up from Bear Grylls and Ray Mears.

The day included shelter building, fire craft, water sourcing and wilderness cookery where the boys learnt to make bread, although with the school's woodland on site, they were able to head up to the school dining hall for a hearty lunch before resuming their bushcraft activities!

The school's forest means that pupils from all years across the school are able to benefit from as much outdoor education as possible, and Forest School sessions take place with the children from the age of three.

As pupils return after half term, Year 6 boys will be preparing for their Year 7 entrance and scholarship exams that take place in March.

The school's partnership with Hatfields Jaguar and Land Rover



Boys test out their bushcraft skills with Ben Mayho from Wildlife Survival School

means they are able to offer boys entering Year 7 academic, sport, music and all-round scholarships.

With a new senior boys' curriculum at the school, including an overseas expedition at the end of Year 8 and tailored future schooling plans for each

individual pupil, there is a lot to look forward to. Shrewsbury High Prep School's open mornings take place on Thursday, March 16, and Wednesday, May 24. To find out more, please call Sharon Jones on 01743 494038 or email admissions@shr.gdst.net

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Youngsters get a taste of life as a sixth form student



Lucy Howell and James Hughes from Lakelands Academy at a chemistry taster lesson

MORE than 30 students attended a taster morning at The Marches School's sixth form in Oswestry.

The event offered them the opportunity to experience life as a Sixth Form student and 58 per cent of the students who attended were external students from across Shropshire and Powys.

On the morning, parents were welcomed by the executive headteacher and received a talk from the head of sixth form about the cur-

riculum on offer, academic and pastoral care approaches and post 16 reform while students took part in taster lessons by subject specialist teachers. Taster lessons were offered in biology, chemistry, English literature, law, mathematics, PE, psychology and physics.

Claire Buckle, head of sixth form at The Marches School, said: "We were delighted to be able to offer the opportunity for prospective students to see what it is like to study at The Marches sixth form. Our extensive course offer

in 2017 has enabled us to increase opportunities for a wider range of students.

"Young people who apply to the Marches Sixth Form will be able to blend a pathway that suits them and their individual career aspirations. All applicants to the Sixth Form have a personal one-to-one interview with me and are given expert careers advice to ensure they choose the right courses for them.

"Excellent transport links, including private minibuses operated by the school, mean that

students travel from surrounding areas including Wrexham, Chirk, Ellesmere and Powys to attend the Sixth Form. We are very proud to have recruited exceedingly bright students from such a breadth of secondary schools in England and Wales. The addition of the new BTEC courses will mean that the Sixth Form is now accessible to an even wider range of students from Oswestry and beyond. I was excited to see so many new faces at our taster morning."



Carys Murray teaches a law taster lesson at the Marches sixth form

Workhouse restoration is carrying on

PLANS are being drawn up to restore the most imposing part of an historic workhouse near Oswestry.

Following the successful launch of a workhouse museum last summer, the trustees of Y Dolydd, Llanfyllin Workhouse, are now taking on the restoration of the most challenging part of the building.

The first phase of restoring the Master's House will be to repair the roof, with other work following possibly over several years.

John Hainsworth, from Llanfyllin Workhouse, said: "The Master's House is the hub of the whole complex, the central octagon. It dominates all four courtyards, rising an extra storey, and links the four wings."

"But the upper rooms are currently empty and the fine roof of Llangynog slate is leaking and in urgent need of repair."

"The immediate priority is to repair the roof and safeguard the enterprise for the future, but full restoration of the Master's House offers exciting prospects of opening up the upper floors, not just in the octagon but much of the building, and of making them accessible to all by installing a lift.

"And it will enable the trust to reinstate the fine classical cupola which once crowned the roof and was replaced in the 1960s. An appeal is needed now to finance the roof repairs, and hopefully make a start on further improvements." The trust which owns the site has carried out maintenance in many areas, including re-roofing the entrance range. It is now in the process of putting together a team to contribute ideas, apply for grants, organise fundraising and help in other ways.

Talented Tim's video project

PHOTOGRAPHER and film maker Tim Mitchell is combining his love of history with his skills to produce a series of popular History in the Making videos.

The Iron Age Oswestry Hillfort, Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, Whittington Castle and fascinating artefacts in Oswestry Museum are just some of the topics that have already been explored by Mr Mitchell.

Now he is hoping to expand the series, with the help of a crowdfunding appeal.

Mr Mitchell, who lives in Oswestry, said that film making had been a natural progression from photography. One of his first projects was a wildlife documentary with a forward by ex-Goodie Bill Oddie.

It is his History in the Making films that are proving most popular. "I love history and what I wanted to do was making it understandable to everyone. So I research the history of places and then try to explain in my own words to make the history more accessible to everyone," he said.

"Views went into the thousands within just a few hours while some videos reaching 25,000 people and figures are still climbing."

To view the videos visit www.facebook.com/History-in-the-making while those who want to help with crowd funding should go to <https://www.gofundme.com/historyinthemakingbytimitchell>.

Man jailed over indecent images

THE director of an Oswestry-based furniture company who was found in possession of dozens of indecent images of children has been jailed.

Simon King, 47, had denied being responsible for the images found on a computer at his business premises in West Felton.

He was found guilty of five offences by jury at an earlier trial and at Shrewsbury Crown Court this week he was jailed for a total of six months.

The court heard that King, of The Barns, Abbotsmoor Farm House at West Felton, had been jailed in 2005 for conspiracy to defraud.

At court he was also made subject to a sexual harm prevention order for three years and must be on the sex offenders register for seven years.

King had denied downloading or creating the images on dates between March, 2010, and August, 2012, and claimed the hard drives were used for recording music and some were second hand.

New eco-dome project is unveiled at town school



Eco-committee's Isobel Alefounder, Ioan Owens, Poppy Williams, and Shannon Evans

Report by Pam Kingsley

STUDENTS have unveiled plans for new Eden Project-style eco-domes on a disused part of their school grounds.

Businesses and local residents were given a preview of the project at Marches School in Oswestry.

Students had prepared illustrations and models of the three dome-shaped classrooms.

Joanne Jones, business manager at The Marches School, said: "This was a great opportunity to share with our neighbours, parents and wider community all the exciting elements of this project. We were thrilled with the response and delighted that so many people came forward to offer their help and expertise to support the project going forward." The eco-domes are being funded by the Tesco Bags of Help initiative and sponsored by Tesni Homes, Woodhead Oswestry Sales and Lettings, Carbon Zero and the local Premier convenience store. Work is due to start soon with the construction of the first dome.

Lorraine Hopkins, spokeswoman for Tesni Homes, said: "The fundraising campaign was first inspired by the school's pupil-led eco committee, and it was their vision for having a giant dome that caught our imagination. What's made this project exciting is that is that local businesses have really pulled together to make it happen, whether by offering a cash injection or supporting in-kind through materials or advice."

Kate Howell, owner of Woodhead Oswestry Sales and Lettings, said: "It's really important for me to support educational projects like this one. As a local business person, I feel a sense of responsibility to give back to the local community."



Joanne Jones, from The Marches School, Neil Jones from the Carbon Zero Group and Kate Howell



Models of the eco-dome sculptures



Joanne Jones presenting to the members of the community, sponsors and governors

Walkers gear up to help turn the town pink

WOMEN are planning to turn a town into a sea of glittering pink for a midnight walk for a hospice charity.

Nightingale House Hospice which serves people on the Shropshire/Welsh border, is holding its 11th midnight walk in Wrexham on June 17 and those who sign up before April 28 can get a discount.

Starting at 10.30pm, the event sees women take on either a three and a half or a six mile walk.

Hundreds of women and girls eight years old and over will be spurred on by an array of entertainment and Team Nightingale encouragement along the way.

To say thank you for raising money for hospice care in their area, walkers taking part will also receive a special Midnight Walk souvenir T-shirt and a sweet treat on completion of the walk.

Amanda Kinsey, fundraiser at Nightingale House, said the event was a great girls' night out.

The early bird offer means it is currently £12 to enter. "We are thrilled that registration for this year's Ladies Midnight Walk is in full swing. The walk is now in its eleventh year and it always has a buzzing atmosphere. We are already pulling out all the stops to make sure it is a fantastic event for everyone who walks or volunteers," she said.

Recruitment days lined up

NURSES are being reminded that two recruitment days are being held at Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

The recruitment day for ward roles will take place on Saturday, between 9am and noon, while a separate event for nurses interested in theatre roles will take place on March 12, between 10am and 1pm.

Both days will see the hospital's main entrance transformed into a hub where visiting nurses can meet with different teams. A similar event in November proved a success, with 24 nurses being interviewed on the day, and 17 of those leaving with offers of employment.

Bev Tabernacle, director of nursing, said: "This is a fantastic place to be a nurse. We're looking for experienced or newly qualified nurses to join our teams, we have a fantastic support framework for these nurses to support development and progression. We want nurses who show compassion and exhibit the behaviours which will enable them to deliver excellent care to our patients.

"Full and part-time posts are available, we can also offer rotational posts to widen the experience of those nurses who may want to work with us."

Dementia put in the spotlight

THE NHS trust which runs Shropshire's two acute hospitals will host a conference looking at improvements in care for people living with dementia.

The conference - Changing Dementia Care - will take place at the Shropshire Conference Centre at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital on May 18.

Speakers confirmed for the event include Chris Roberts and Jayne Goodrick, who featured in an extraordinary BBC Panorama documentary about living with dementia.

It is being organised by Karen Breese, dementia clinical specialist at SaTH.

She said: "A quarter of patients in our hospitals live with a dementia or some form of confusion.

"We are working to ensure that those patients, and their carers, receive the individualised and sensitive care that is appropriate to their needs."

The conference costs £20. To book a place email stephanie.jones@sath.nhs.uk

Contact NHS 111 for non-emergencies

PEOPLE in Shropshire who need urgent but not emergency care are being urged to call NHS 111.

The hotline is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and is free to call.

The service is staffed by fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics.

Former cancer patient leaves £235,000 to RSH unit which became her 'second home'



Bernadette Roberts was 'a marvellous lady'

ALMOST a quarter of a million pounds has been left to the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital after it became "like a second home" for a woman who was diagnosed with cancer.

Improved facilities for cancer patients are to be created at the hospital thanks to the £235,284 bequest.

Bernadette Roberts, of Shifnal, was diagnosed with cancer in 2008 and regularly attended The O'Connor Haematology Unit before she died in December 2015.

The 69 year old was so grateful for the support and friendship she received during those seven years she decided to leave almost a quarter of a million pounds to the unit.

Dr Nigel O'Connor, Consultant Haematologist at RSH, said: "Bernadette was a mar-

vellous lady and it was a delight to see her in clinic. Everyone on the unit got to know her extremely well and became very fond of her.

The Day Unit needs to be extended and altered because of increasing patient numbers. Specific changes include increasing the size of the waiting room, changing a store room into a procedure room and adding more treatment chairs, all of which will prove very expensive.

"This bequest will go a long way towards meeting the costs and, to show our gratitude, it has been agreed to name the new waiting room after Bernadette.

"To leave the unit so much money is ex-

tremely generous and we are all incredibly grateful. The bequest will allow us to improve the experience we offer to future patients and we will take great pride in naming the extension to the waiting room after Bernadette."

Bernadette's sisters, Christine Hayward and Anne Winn, met with Dr O'Connor and Dr McKew, Clinical Director for Oncology and Haematology, at the hospital to present the cheque and find out how the money will be spent.

Mrs Hayward said: "Dr O'Connor and his team were fabulous from the very first day Bernadette was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in 2008. The unit at RSH became like a second home and Bernadette got to know all the fabulous staff very well."

More should be done to ease A&E crisis, insists health boss

Report by Amy Downward

NOT enough is being done to tackle Shropshire's A&E crisis, according to an NHS boss.

It comes as it was revealed 15 people had to wait more than 12 hours on trolleys at Telford's Princess Royal Hospital A&E on one day last month.

Shropshire Clinical Commissioning Group is now investigating whether any patient was harmed as a result of the waits.

A CCG meeting was told PRH and Royal Shrewsbury Hospital needed to implement basic steps to deal with the influx of patients.

Wendy Saviour, NHS England director of commissioning operations for North Midlands, said: "Shropshire is not doing everything it can in regards to patient flow.

"There are spare beds in the community hospitals which should be being used.

"There are still other things that need to be done to improve the flow through the hospitals. There is a lot of evidence about what works in these situations and they do not seem to be pursued through the A&E board. It is particularly worrying to hear about 12-hour breaches. It is completely unacceptable and should be a complete no-no."

NHS England will now meet managers from the Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital Trust and Shropshire CCG. Figures discussed by Shropshire health commissioners show 15 patients had to wait more than 12 hours for treatment in A&E on January 27.

Dr Simon Freeman, interim accountable officer, said: "I am concerned about the A&E position and lack of ways to address the cause. The figures are very bad. People lying on a trolley for 12 hours is not acceptable."

Dr Julie Davies, director of strategy and service redesign, said: "The A&E performance is unacceptable. We have seen significant support from the local authority in a very difficult time.

"We do have beds available in the community hospitals and Robert Jones & Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital. There is potential for the fracture clinic to be relocated to Robert Jones and also to make better use of the beds on the rehabilitation ward."

Meanwhile hospital bosses were told an independent review, looking into the methodology and process of Future Fit, is set to be completed by the end of April.

Future Fit - which could see one A&E unit set up at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and Telford's department downgraded - is currently on hold.

Independent experts to review Future Fit process

HEALTH and social care leaders in Shropshire have agreed to commission an independent review into the NHS Future Fit programme without delay.

Partners are in agreement that work must continue to identify a long term solution for the challenges faced by local hospitals.

External experts will review the appraisal process carried out so far in developing the long-term options for hospital services in the county.

Health leaders are confident that by carrying out this independent review, it will assure

Delight at donation of sensory equipment



With the new equipment are Lisa Lake and son Arthur who is a patient at the hospital, Kier Construction's Justin Williams, Medequip4kids' Evelyn Glarvey and Ghazala Baig, Alice Ward manager Suzanne Marsden and Kier Construction's Dewy Edwards

NEARLY £4,000 worth of new sensory equipment has been donated to Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital.

The equipment has been given to the hospital's children's ward by developers Kier Construction - the firm who built the new £15.1million theatre and ward development at the hospital.

Kier works with the charity Medequip4kids to supply hospitals with sensory equipment such as fibre-optic lights and tactile toys.

Justin Williams, Kier's operations manager, said: "We came up with plans of what to buy for Alice Ward and a target of how much we needed to raise. We held a golf charity day at

Oswestry golf course and raised £3,960. It's about giving something back. We're contractors, we're in business. But all of us have a social responsibility and personal pride that becomes clear with this sensory equipment.

"This is more tangible than the presentation of a cheque. There's an end product and you can see what a fantastic benefit this is going to be for the children." Suzanne Marsden, Alice Ward manager, said: "It's really humbling to see a big business like Kier be so personal with a donation. Not only have they raised money for the sensory room but they've come here in person to donate the equipment. Many of our patients need intensive physio to

keep their joints and muscles healthy. So to be able to bring them into the sensory room or take the sensory equipment to their bedside is priceless. It calms patients down and allows us to treat them without them stressing. The ward is so grateful to Kier and Medequip4kids for all their help." Medequip4kids, based in Manchester, have been supplying hospitals with sensory equipment for 30 years. Ghazala Baig, chief executive, said: "It makes such a difference. Seeing a child's face change from being serious to happy when they see the lights makes all the difference. We're delighted we've been able to work with Kier and the hospital to provide this equipment."

PROPERTY

YOUR WEEKLY
GUIDE TO HOME
BUYING AND
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19
Oswestry & Border Chronicle
Thursday, March 2, 2017

Detached property on a substantial private plot in town

A charming detached three-bedroomed property on a substantial plot, 74 Llys Road, Oswestry is well presented throughout and has parking for numerous vehicles.

With generous lawned gardens and a wood burning stove in the lounge, it is for sale through Morris Marshall & Poole at £176,500.

With gas central heating and double glazing, its accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge with the wood-burning stove, a dining room, a kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom.

In more detail the entrance hall has a glazed door and a tiled floor and radiator.

The lounge has a feature wood burning stove, wood-effect laminate flooring and an archway through to the dining room. This again has wood-effect laminate flooring, a radiator and patio doors opening to the rear.

The kitchen is fitted with a range of wall and base units with work surfaces over, a built-in electric oven and hob with a canopy extractor over, space and plumbing for a washing machine, space for a fridge, an under-stairs storage cupboard, tiled floor and an integral door to garage.

Upstairs, the first floor landing has a cylinder cupboard with slatted shelves and a loft access hatch.

All of the three bedrooms are served by a radiator, with bedroom three also having an over-stair plinth. The family bathroom is fitted with a three piece suite comprising a panelled bath with an electric shower fitting over and a screen, wash hand basin, low-flush WC, tiled floor and a radiator. Outside, to the front of the property, double gates open onto the long driveway providing parking for numerous vehicles and giving access to the attached garage.

The private gardens include a generous lawned area with hedging and fencing for privacy with a paved patio area and shrubbed borders.

The attached single garage has an up and over door, an integral door to the kitchen and an external door to the rear.

KEY FEATURES

Detached
Three bedrooms
Substantial plot
Long driveway and garage
Lounge with wood-burning stove

OSWESTRY £176,500



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Bungalow is in easy distance of town centre

OSWESTRY
£139,950

A semi-detached bungalow with a level and low maintenance garden plot, 3 Walford Road, Oswestry, is located within easy walking distance of the town centre.

The property is on the market through JJ Dell & Co with a guide price of £139,950. The home benefits from gas central heating and has double glazing. Accommodation includes an entrance hall, a lounge, kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms. There is ample parking and a rear garden. The property benefits from solar panels and a recently installed Worcester boiler. The home occupies a quiet position on Walford Road which is a popular residential area within easy level walking distance of the town's shopping centre.

For more information about the property, contact JJ Dell & Co on 01691 653437 and 680212.



Refurbished stone built cottage enjoys great views

HYSSINGTON
£330,000

<<<

A refurbished detached stone built cottage, Ivy Cottage at Hyssington, Montgomery has far reaching views over the surrounding countryside.

It is for sale through Balfours at £330,000. It has an entrance hall, a sitting room, dining room, study, four bedrooms, a kitchen, conservatory, bathroom, one en-suite, lawn, parking and a garage.

Ivy Cottage is situated in a delightful rural position on the eastern fringes of the village of Church Stoke between Montgomery and Bishops Castle.

The property retains many attractive and period features. It is presented to a very high standard and is well proportioned throughout with views over the surrounding countryside.

For more information about the property contact Balfours on 01743 353511.

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- Garaging
- Good Sized Garden
- EPC Band D
- JJD805

GUIDE PRICE £189,950

RHYDYCROESAU, NR. OSWESTRY



- Exceptionally Well Appointed Welsh Stone Cottage
- GFCH & UPVC D/G
- Sitting Room
- Fitted Dining Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Separate Garaging
- Sun Room And Workshop
- Rear Terrace Garden
- EPC Band F
- JJD901

GUIDE PRICE £184,750

GOBOWEN



- Semi-Detached Bungalow With Disability Modifications
- PVC DG
- Entrance Porch And Hall
- Kitchen And Utility
- Lounge
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Shower Room
- Garage And Car Parking
- Front And Rear Gardens
- EPC Band - E
- JJD929

GUIDE PRICE £142,500

OSWESTRY



- Mid Terraced Cottage Within Easy Walking Distance Of Town Centre
- GFCH Part UPVC DG
- Living Room
- Galley Kitchen/Dining Area
- Two Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- On-Street Parking
- Garage, Adjoining Workshop
- Long Rear Garden
- EPC Band - D
- JJD943

GUIDE PRICE - £137,000

OSWESTRY



- Semi-Detached Bungalow Within Walking Distance Of Town Centre
- GCH & DG
- Entrance Hall
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Two Bedrooms
- Ample Parking
- Paved Rear Garden
- Solar Panels
- EPC Band - B
- JJD939

GUIDE PRICE £139,950

OSWESTRY



- Good sized Four Bed. Detached House
- GFCH & DG
- Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Utility And Study
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Ground Floor Bedroom
- Three First Floor Bedrooms (Bedroom One En-Suite)
- Double Garaging
- Ample Car Parking
- Corner Plot
- EPC Band - D
- JJD937

GUIDE PRICE £225,000

WHITTINGTON



- Valuable Village Shop With 23 Ft. Frontage
- Central Popular Village Location
- Three Bed. Living Accommodation With GFCH And DG
- Garden
- Car Parking
- EPC Band - TBC
- JJD935

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- GFCH
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- Unit G - RENT £23,000 (Floor Area - 8,400 sq. ft)
- EPC Band - E
- JJD087

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- JJD867

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NEW



**Berwyn Avenue
Chirk Bank** £215,000

- NO CHAIN - A spacious and well positioned 3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Situated in the popular hamlet of Chirk Bank.
- The property is situated on a good size plot
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen
- 2 Double Bedrooms, a Single Bedroom and Family Bathroom.
- Driveway and garage to the fore and large rear garden.
- Gas central heating and double glazing

NEW



**Church View
Hadnall** £295,000

- A BRAND NEW DEVELOPMENT
- A Range of 4 Bedroom detached homes situated in the popular village of Hadnall close to the Market Town of Shrewsbury.
- Open plan Kitchen and Dining area ideal for entertaining, Utility & Cloaks
- Master Bedroom with fitted wardrobes and En-suite
- 3 further Bedroom and a Family Bathroom.
- An enclosed rear garden, Integral Garage and Driveway
- PRICES FROM £295,000

NEW



**Oak Street
Oswestry** £119,950

- A superbly presented and spacious 2 Bedroom End-Terrace House
- Retaining many character features including original fireplaces
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room and Kitchen
- 2 Double Bedrooms and a Bathroom
- Walled gravelled rear garden with patio
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- EPC Rating E (40)

NEW



**Vyrnwy Place
Oswestry** £82,000

- Well presented 1 Bed Leasehold Ground Floor Apartment
- Ent Hall, Kitchen, Lounge
- Bedroom and Bathroom
- Own garden and garage
- D/G and electric storage heaters
- An EnviroVent ventilation system
- EPC Rating F (31). NO CHAIN



**York street
Oswestry** £130,000

- An extremely spacious 3 Bedroom Terraced Property
- Situated within walking distance of the town centre
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room
- Kitchen, Pantry, Storage Room and Cloakroom
- 3 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Good size enclosed rear garden with garage
- Partial double glazing is installed
- EPC Rating. NO CHAIN



**Hawthorn Close
St Martins** £144,995

- A well appointed 2 Bedroom Semi-Detached Bungalow
- Porch, Entrance Hall, Kitchen, Lounge, Conservatory
- 2 Double Bedrooms and Shower Room.
- Low maintenance gardens to front and rear
- Carport and ample off road parking.
- Gas central heating and double glazing
- EPC Rating C. 73. NO CHAIN



**Morton
Nr Oswestry** £175,000

- A unique opportunity to purchase a 2 Bedroom Detached Cottage
- Requiring a full scheme of refurbishment.
- In the quiet hamlet of Morton
- Kitchen, Dining Room, Lounge
- Ground floor Bathroom 2 double bedrooms
- Large garden, outbuilding and garage
- EPC Rating
- NO CHAIN



**Castle Street
Oswestry** £100,000

- Spacious 2 Bed End Terrace Hse
- Contains a host of original features
- Ent Hall, Living Room and Kitchen
- 2 good size Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Additional Attic Room
- Slabbed area to the front.
- Gas C/H & D/G. EPC Rating
- NO CHAIN



Llanhaeadr YM £250,000

- NO CHAIN - An idyllic Detached Country Cottage set in an elevated position
- Situated within walking distance of the Tanat Hills and surrounding countryside
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Utility and ground floor Shower Room
- 3 Double Bedrooms (1 en-suite) and a separate Family Bathroom
- The property stands in large lawned gardens
- Ample off road parking together with a single garage
- Concrete shed and former pig sty
- Oil central heating is installed throughout



**Regent Court
Oswestry** £120,000


- Well appointed 2 Bed 1st Flr Apartment
- Living/Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms (master en-suite)
- Sep Shower Rm, Secure car parking
- 24 hour resident secretary, communal lounge & garden
- Security entrance system
- EPC Rating C '71'

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**Connah's Quay
Guide Price** DEESIDE £40,000

- Two Bedroom Terraced
- Requiring Modernisation and Improvement Works
- Good Sized Rear Garden
- Basement
- EPC Rating G (12)
- Contact Wrexham Office



**Park Hall
Guide Price** OSWESTRY Over £90,000

- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached House
- In need of Modernisation Works
- Entrance Porch, Entrance Hall, Lounge Kitchen/Dining Room, 3 Bedrooms Family Bathroom, Outbuilding
- Driveway & Garage, Gardens
- EPC Rating - Band 'E' (52)



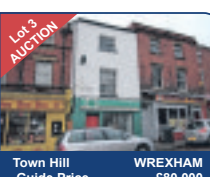
**Oswald Place
Oswestry** £119,995

- 3 Bed Town House with Original Features
- Within Walking Distance of Town Centre
- Kitchen Lounge, Cloakroom
- 2 Beds and Bathroom
- Master Bed with adj Dressing Room
- Private Courtyard Garden
- Gas C/H, D/G. EPC Rating F
- NO CHAIN



**Plough Bank
Weston Rhyn** £114,995

- A well maintained and deceptively spacious 2 Bedroom Mid Terrace Property
- Ent Hall/Study, Lounge and Kitchen
- 2 good size Bedrooms & Bathroom
- Enclosed front & rear gardens
- Allocated parking to rear
- Gas C/H & D/G. EPC Rating C (70)



**Town Hill
Guide Price** WREXHAM £80,000

A town centre commercial property close to a variety of retailers comprising a ground floor retail shop (former Post Office) having rear and basement storage together with two presently un-refurbished upper floors, which have potential to convert into a duplex residential flat.



**Dodington
Guide Price** WHITCHURCH £55,000-£60,000

Currently let to the Driving Standards Authority and used as the local Test Centre. The property extends to over 650 sq ft evenly split over two floors. Waiting room and WC on the ground floor and an office, kitchen, and wc on the first floor.
Contact Ellesmere Office



**Coedpoeth
Guide Price** WREXHAM £100,000-£110,000

- Prominent High Street Location
- Two Flats Currently Tenanted
- Double Glazing
- Gas Fired Central Heating
- EPC Rating No 20 = E (53)
- EPC Rating No 20A = C (75)



**Nantyr
Guide Price** LLANGOLLEN £110,000-£130,000

Nantyr Outdoor Activity Centre. The site extends to approximately 0.64 acres (0.26 ha) and also offers potential for various alternative uses subject to obtaining the necessary planning consents.
• EPC Rating - Band 'D' (76).
• Contact our Chirk office



**Old Chirk Road
Gobowen** £260,000

- Superbly appointed and spacious 2/3 Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Standing in large well maintained gardens with large garage & summer house
- Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen/ Dining Room
- 3 Double Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Ample off road parking to the fore.
- Gas central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating D (68)



**Cherry Tree Dr
St Martins** £123,999

- NO CHAIN
- 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Property
- Hallway, Lounge, Kitchen/Dining Rm
- 3 Bedrooms and Family Bathroom
- Well maintained gardens, off rd parking
- uPVC D/G, electric storage heaters
- Cavity wall insulation. EPC Rating D (62)



**Pandy
Guide Price** LLANGOLLEN £15,000

- 28 acres (11.33 ha) of mature coniferous woodland
- Includes the well known Pandy Outcrop.
- Woodland partially under Tree Protection Order with SSSI designation.
- Contact our Chirk office



**Llanymynech
Guide Price** OSWESTRY £80,000

- Ground Floor 3 Bedroom Apart
- Ent Hall, Lounge, Kitchen & Bath
- Outside Store Room & Bike Shed
- Off Road Parking & Courtyard
- DG Windows, EPC Rating D
- Currently let on Shorthold Tenancy
- Contact Oswestry Office

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Victorian end of terrace home is well maintained

OSWESTRY
£167,500

A Victorian end of terrace property with three bedrooms, 74 York Street, Oswestry is tastefully decorated and well maintained throughout.

It is for sale through Town & Country at £167,500. Its accommodation comprises an entrance hallway, a lounge/dining room, a beautifully fitted kitchen, three bedrooms and a luxury family bathroom. The property is warmed by gas central heating and double glazing. To the outside is a garage, a small front garden, a private side garden and a rear yard with storage a shed. Number 74 is conveniently located and within walking distance of Oswestry town centre which has an abundance of local amenities including schools and leisure facilities. The front of the property is walled and paved with a brick driveway leading to the garage.

Contact Town & Country on 01691 679631.



Detached home is immaculately presented

FOUR CROSSES
£325,000 <<<

Immaculately presented, 7, Parc Hafod, Four Crosses is a five-bedroomed detached family home in a quiet residential area in a popular village.

Having easy access on to the A5/A483, it is for sale through Bowen Son & Watson at £325,000. Maintained to the highest of standards the accommodation briefly comprises an entrance hall, cloakroom, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen and utility whilst on the first floor is a master suite including dressing room and an ensuite, a further two double bedrooms and a family bathroom. On the second floor are two bedrooms and a shower room.

The property sits on a well proportioned plot with gardens to the front and rear and a driveway and a double garage.

For more information contact Bowen Son & Watson on 01691 652367.

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Guide Price £525,000

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**Tyndwr, Station Rd, Rhosweil
Weston Rhyn £150,000**

Semi detached cottage style residence. 2 first floor bedrooms and supplementary ancillary room. 2 receptions. Gas c/heating, shower room. On-site parking and access to a further detached enclosed garden area. Canal side location within easy access of the A5 Trunk Road. Offering scope for improvement. No chain. EPC Rating = 26[F]

Oswestry Office 01691 679595


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Oswestry Office 01691 679595


**5 Greenbank Close, Oswestry
£159,950**

A well located detached house. Within walking distance of the town centre. Large lounge, dining room and kitchen. Ground floor cloakroom and useful rear lobby. Three bedrooms and fitted shower room. Attached single garage and gardens to front and rear. Gas-fired central heating and double glazing. EPC Rating = 68 [D]

Oswestry Office 01691 679595

10 High Fawr Close, Oswestry

£189,950

Link detached house on popular estate. Three bedrooms. L-shaped living and dining area with dual aspect and rear doors to the garden. Gas c/heating, d/glazing and cavity wall insulation. Attached single garage. Good sized terraced rear garden and sloping garden down off the estate road. EPC Rating = 61[D]

Oswestry Office 01691 679595



RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO LET OSWESTRY

- 1 Bed First/Floor Flat, Electric Heating, No Pets, (EPC=54) (£400 dep) £300 pcm
- 2 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=39) (£450 dep) £450 pcm
- 2 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=39) (£455 dep) £455 pcm
- 2 Bed Semi-Det House, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=67) (£595 dep) £495 pcm
- 2 Bed Furnished/2nd/Floor Flat, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=6) (£800 dep)..... £525 pcm
- 2 Bed Det Bungalow, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=53) (£700 dep)..... £600 pcm
- 2 Bed Det Bungalow, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=62) (£725 dep)..... £625 pcm

ELLESMERE

- 3 Bed Barn, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=21) (£850 dep) £750 pcm

LLANYFYLIN

- 1 Bed G/Floor Flat, Elec/Heat, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=52) (£425 dep) £275 pcm
- 2 Bed Mid-Terrace, Gas C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=77) (£455 dep) £355 pcm

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LLANYMYNECH

- 3 Bed Semi-Det House, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=39) (£625 dep)..... £525 pcm

LLANSANTFFRAID

- 3 Bed Det Cottage, Oil C/H, FTE, No Pets, (EPC=45) (£650 dep) £550 pcm

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Darren Watson and Jayne Bennett at Whitchurch Food and Drink Festival

With thriving weekly markets and a wide range of shops, there is plenty for visitors to see and do in north Shropshire's towns.

Despite Wem, Market Drayton, Whitchurch and Ellesmere having all experienced lean periods, they are continuing to try and establish themselves as centres for tourism and business.

Local residents as well as people from outside the area come to the town's weekly markets which showcase what local produce the region has to offer.

The town's high streets have plenty of traditional independent shops as well as national retailers.

Events ranging from food and drink festivals to flower shows are held in the towns throughout the year, attracting thousands of local visitors as well as some from abroad.

Wem's affiliation with sweet peas is celebrated with the famous sweet

pea show in July. The annual event commemorates the life of hybridist Henry Eckford, who developed the sweet pea while living in the town. The link dates back to 1888 when Mr Eckford moved to Wem.

In Whitchurch, Jo Wheatley, who won the second series of BBC's The Great British Bake Off in 2011, will appear at the annual Whitchurch Food and Drink in May. The festival boasts a live cooking demonstration kitchen, cocktail making, producer awards, outdoor food court area and promises something for every palette.

In Ellesmere, the town's popular food and drink festival, which attracts about 10,000 visitors, will be held in the town hall and market hall in June.

In Market Drayton, thousands of people will take part in the town's popular 10k race in May which usually sees places for entrants sold out months in advance.



The Market Drayton 10k run is a popular attraction in the north Shropshire town

Medieval town with lots to boast about



Stunning architecture is a feature of High Street's black and white buildings

From cobbled streets to its centuries of history, Shrewsbury is one of England's finest medieval towns.

The architecture is stunning, the old buildings fascinating. But there is more to Charles Darwin's home town than its black and white facades.

Boasting a vast array of independent shops, cafes and restaurants as well as more well-known chains, the town has something to offer everyone.

The town's Quarry Park offers beautiful riverside open space for the family to enjoy, to watch the world go by or enjoy a trip on a river boat.

The Dingle is another beautiful attraction which draws the crowds in. Formerly a stone quarry, world renowned gardener Percy Thrower transformed it into a floral masterpiece. Of Blue Peter fame, Thrower was Shrewsbury's Park Superintendent for 28 years. He created the beautiful Dingle with



The Dingle in Shrewsbury's Quarry park is a popular attraction

alpine borders, colourful bedding plants, shrubbery and water features.

Some of the older parts of the town are still rife with passageways and alleys with interesting names – today this is where you will find many of the independent shops.

Exploring

Tourists can spend days exploring the town, with the castle, Abbey and Shrewsbury Library just some of the must-see things.



Busy Pride Hill boasts a wealth of chain stores alongside plenty of independent shops

Seb Slater, executive director at Shrewsbury BID, said: "Shrewsbury has a distinctive offer which is always evolving.

"The castle, churches and medieval buildings that dominate the skyline are as popular today as the café culture, shopping, events and festivals.

"We are very fortunate to have such a strong and diverse shopping, food and drink and leisure offer, with boutiques and artisan suppliers outnumbering the national chains.

They offer specialist products and unique experiences for customers and drive a sense of independence and enterprise which sets the town apart and a genuine draw for visitors.

"Earlier this month we launched a first for the town with a spectacular free street exhibition, Evolution Explored, which opens up the theme of evolution through the eyes of international photographers. It's this type of cultural activity that appeals to visitors as well as our vibrant business community."

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Focus



Oswestry's busy indoor market offers shoppers a range of produce, crafts, clothing, services, gifts and gadgets



Traders set out their stalls in Bailey Street and the Bailey Head on Wednesdays and Saturdays

Something for everyone

From big names stores to individual, family-run shops, market stalls and cafes a-plenty, Oswestry has something for everyone.

The town centre has not one, but several shopping streets, all with a mix of shops, large and small.

There are the well-known High Street names including fashion and food shops.

And sitting alongside are the independent shops and specialists who draw visitors from a large area.

The town has one of the largest, kitchen shops in the region and an award-winning bookshop – both putting on special events throughout the year.

There are specialists for music, cameras and

bicycles and also gift stores – perfect if looking for that special present for someone, or a treat for yourself or your home.

The town has also retained its independent food shops, from butchers and bakers to sweet shops and delicatessen, while drinkers can also call into a wine and beer specialist.

Markets

Oswestry Town Council runs both indoor and outdoor markets. Traders set out their stall in Bailey Street and the Bailey Head on Wednesdays and Saturdays while the indoor market at the top of

the Bailey Head is also open on Fridays. On the last Friday of every month there is also the Artisan market. Nearby attractions include Oswestry Hillfort, Whittington Castle, Shelf Bank and the Cambrian Railway Museum.

If you are coming to Oswestry to browse, or maybe to keep an appointment then why not try one of the town's array of eateries. You might just want a delicious handmade pie or pastry or go all out for a pub or restaurant lunch. There is even a vegan specialist cafe.

Add value for money car parking and Oswestry is a must visit.



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Ludlow Racecourse is a popular attraction



Castle Square in Ludlow hosts regular markets offering local produce, collectibles and all manner of gifts and gadgets



The castle hosts a range of events through the year

Ludlow town centre has bucked the trend in more ways than one, managing to thrive in tough times for small-town high streets while also largely resisting the urge to fill up with national chains.

The town has made its name on small-scale independent businesses, from the multiple butchers, bakers and grocery stores that still sell locally sourced produce from town centre shop fronts, to boutique gift shops offering

the quirky, crafty and unique. Ludlow is, of course, known for its food, and also boasts a wealth of cafes and delicatessens, as well as a centre full of heritage – from its pretty, winding streets made up of timber-framed Tudor and elegant Georgian town houses, to the imposing Ludlow Castle and cathedral-like Church of St Laurence.

But Ludlow has not been without its challenges in recent years, from local authority

funding cuts to services to the controversial passing of a planned out-of-town supermarket.

In response, the Ludlow Chamber of Commerce has responded with initiatives such as an "Only in Ludlow" scheme and website allowing one-off businesses to advertise the fact, an annual "Independent's Day" to celebrate them, and even a local loyalty card that can be used in multiple shops.

Muff Murfin, chair of Ludlow Chamber of

Commerce, said: "We keep getting told how lovely Ludlow is and this is because we still have a proper high street.

"The chamber does everything it can to support the small-scale businesses that truly offer something a little different to visitors, but also the everyday quality butchers and bakers that thankfully are still busy.

"These rely on local people, their loyalty is paramount as well."

Perhaps partly as a result of this there was a pleasant case of déjà vu last year as Ludlow was once again named as one of the best places to live in the UK.

The town made the Sunday Times' annual Best Places to Live list for the second year in a row, the only town in Shropshire to be included in the country's top 50 towns and suburbs, among 13 towns and villages in the Midlands named.



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Shares in Serco slide as profits fall by 14pc

SHARES in outsourcing group, Serco tumbled after the company saw its underlying profit fall.

The company, which runs leisure centres on behalf of Shropshire Council, saw revenue decline by 13 per cent to £3 billion, while underlying trading profit fell by £14 million to £82m.

The profit figure in particular spooked investors, sending shares 14 per cent lower.

In the company's local and regional government division, which includes the running of five Shropshire leisure centres, revenue fell 23 per cent to £696.5m.

That was mainly because of the ending of two contracts for which Serco did not enter new bids because they had been loss-making.

Overall order intake increased by 40 per cent with £2.5bn total value of signed contracts.

The company signed a 10-year contract to run Shropshire's leisure centres – the Quarry Leisure Centre and Sports Village in Shrewsbury, the new Oswestry Leisure Centre, and other centres in Market Drayton and Whitchurch – in 2012.

Chief executive Rupert Soames said: "These results show that the execution of our five-year plan remains on track."

"Trading in 2016 was better than we expected at the start of the year, although this was in large part due to the resolution of a number of commercial matters in the first half, which will not recur."

Serco, which has more than 500 contracts worldwide and employs 47,000, reduced operating costs by £450m. "The road back to prosperity was always going to be long and winding, with many potholes and boulders, but we are making good progress," added Mr Soames.

Business as usual at shop

A DECISION to place the site of a major supermarket on the market will not affect business, bosses have said.

The site of the Morrisons store on the Station Road/Oswald Road entrance to Oswestry has been put on the market by owner British Land with a price tag of £5,650,000.

Agents Allsop said an offer had been made for the site.

A spokesman for Morrisons said the sale would make no difference to its position.

"Morrisons remains the tenant of our store on Station Road. The store won't be affected," a spokesman said.

In its advertising, Allsop says the 28,455 square foot site attracts a rent of £406,850 per annum.

It is let to WM Morrison Supermarkets plc until 2025.

The agent said that such a land sale was not uncommon when a landowner wanted to realise its potential and sell a freehold. It did not affect any business operating on the site.

Morrisons also holds the lease for the former Smithfield land on Shrewsbury Road on the eastern side of Oswestry. Last year the company was given the go-ahead to re-market the site after Cine-world, which had planned a cinema on part of the land, pulled out of the deal.

Region's deadly routes revealed

DOZENS of people have been killed or injured on the region's most dangerous stretches of road over the last five years, new figures reveal.

A breakdown of fatal, serious and 'slight' accidents has highlighted the A49 as being one of Shropshire's most dangerous routes. The road has seen eight serious accidents at the stretch in Onibury, four serious and one fatal at the A49 in Little Stretton, and three serious and three fatal crashes at the A49 in Dorrington. At Emstrey Island on the outskirts of Shrewsbury there have four serious and one fatal accident. At Shotatton on the A5 between Nesscliffe and Oswestry, there has been one serious crash and seven slight accidents. In Mid Wales, there have been four serious accidents and one fatal on the A483 at Llynderw, seven serious accidents on the A483 at Abermule, near Newtown, and four serious accidents just miles down the road as it comes into Newtown. The figures come from Crashmap.co.uk.

Doris provides a stormy opening for new store



Newport town crier Peter Taunton announces the opening of Oswestry's Lidl store

CUSTOMERS received a stormy welcome at the opening of a new bargain supermarket in Oswestry.

Customers braved Storm Doris to enjoy the official opening of the new Lidl store on Shrewsbury Road, which has brought 27 jobs

to the town. Bosses moved the ribbon cutting ceremony inside to get their customers and their staff out of the wind and rain as Storm Doris swept the county on Thursday last week.

Early customers included Tony and Inge Hall from St Martins.



Some of the Lidl staff in Oswestry wait to greet customers to the new store

The couple say they do their day-to-day shopping in their village but in the past have driven as far as Wrexham to visit Lidl stores.

Mrs Hall, who is originally from Germany, the home country of Lidl, said: "We will come into Oswestry now rather than Wrexham."

"This is a lovely store, it is well laid out and modern."

Mr Hall said he enjoyed looking around the non-food selection. Newport's town crier Peter Taunton performed the opening ceremony for the new store.

Historic castle entrance now restored to its former glory



Alex Turrell on the steps which were used as part of the main entrance



Alex Turrell, the house steward, with planters which will be outside along the newly refurbished steps

Report by Naomi Penrose

A CLOSED off castle entrance which at one time welcomed major figures in British and world history has been restored to its former glory and will soon re-open to the public, thanks to a half a million pound public appeal.

Loyal supporters of Powis Castle in Welshpool were asked to help raise £500,000 to restore the medieval castle's crumbling East Front which was once the main, grand entrance which welcomed the likes of Queen Victoria and King George V into the castle.

The entrance had fallen out of use in the 18th century and had since badly deteriorated, and despite the National Trust acquiring the property in 1952, the public have never been able to access the entrance as the crumbling steps were deemed too dangerous. Now following the East Front of the castle being the focus of a huge restoration project for most of last year and a public appeal for funds, final preparations are underway for the public to get a first glimpse of the newly repaired entrance, when discovery tours will be running from Monday, before its official opening on March 29.

Alison Dunne, volunteering and community involvement officer at Powis Castle, said: "The public response to this appeal was absolutely remarkable, one of the most successful the National Trust has ever had in fact, with our amazing supporters raising the sum in just two months."

"The most obvious issue to rectify was the large number of paving slabs down the steps that had either sunk or cracked."



The restored East Front of Powis Castle



Alex Turrell, the house steward, at the gates which lead to the refurbished steps

Visitors speak highly of area's many attractions



Claire Hayes from Ireland, left, says Oswestry people are friendly and welcoming

THE Oswestry and Borders area really has been a hidden gem in the tourism world. But things are changing.

Those who happen upon Oswestry are delighted by its history and its beautiful countryside. And people are catching on. The Oswestry Borderland Tourism group has just launched its 2017 brochure with more copies than ever before printed. Lee Lucks from the not-for-profit organisation, said that it ran out of copies of last year's brochure and said: "The trend

nationally is away from paper brochure to websites. But our brochures has been increasingly popular as this area gets better known."

She said the brochure, Oswestry, Where Shropshire meets Wales, showed just what the area had to offer. One visitor who would agree is Dr Claire Hayes, a busy psychologist and author living in County Meath near Dublin. When she wants to relax and enjoy some quality time, she heads for Oswestry, to visit friends and take in the history and beautiful countryside.

"Oswestry really is a hidden gem," she said. "When my friends came here because of work, I struggled to even pronounce Oswestry. Now I love visiting the area."

The author of a new book about to be published, called Finding Hope in the Age of Anxiety, she said Oswestry was somewhere she could properly relax. "The people of Oswestry are so friendly," she said.

"When my friends are at work I walk into town and head straight for the parish church -



The Oswestry area has fantastic attractions including Whittington Castle

it is a beautiful building. Then I enjoy a drink and cake in the Shropshire Poacher coffee shop and look at the exhibitions in the exhibition centre before wandering around the town itself.

"I love the shops and the market is a great place to explore.

"I like going up to the castle by the market for the view across the area."

She said further afield the area has some wonderful beauty spots.

Businesses work together to help create new mosaic



Taking part in a lino printing workshop was Thomas Renwick, aged three



Charlie Renwick, aged five, of Llanfechain, took part in an art workshop during the mosaic unveiling

Report by Sue Austin

NEIGHBOURING businesses in Oswestry have joined forces to produce artwork to encourage more visitors.

The Baby Bird Cafe and Designs in Mind in Cross Street, won funding for an On the High Street project.

The result, a colourful mosaic at the entrance to the child friendly cafe, and birds in flight above the cafe, was officially unveiled at a ceremony.

Designs in Mind, a creative studio of artists and makers whose members are adults in touch with mental health services put on a series of creative workshops for the customers of the Baby Bird Cafe and also for pupils at The Meadows Primary School.

Volunteer Jenny Gilford said from those came the idea for the birds on the branches of a tree and the mosaic was then planned out in individual tiles. Kevin Gibson, who has been involved with Designs in Mind for several years, said the mosaic team could only check if the different tiles match up when the entrance floor was laid.

Money for the artwork came from the Big Lottery Fund - Awards for All, locally based Priscilla Hilton-Jones Trust and the Treble Niners grant fund, from the proceeds of the Oswestry bonfire and fireworks evening. Designs in Mind has also just finished an ornately carved bench - a private commission. Oswestry Mayor, Councillor Paul Milner, said it was wonderful to see the Designs in Mind latest creation unveiled.

During the day families were able to enjoy doing some artwork of their own as Designs in Mind Studios set up a workshop upstairs in the cafe. Many children took part in a free, drop-in lino printing workshop. A selection of pre-cut lino designs were available to create a printed postcard.



Gwenllian Roberts and mum Anna Evans do some art



Baby Bird Cafe's Katie Millard, Oswestry Mayor Paul Milner and Jenny Brazier of Designs in Mind admire the new mosaic

Landowners given electric line advice

NORTH Shropshire landowners are being encouraged to seek professional advice before signing any documents relating to the route of the proposed Oswestry to Wem 132 kv electricity line, which is planned for 2020.

The call comes from Shaun Jones, a rural professional director at auctioneers, valuers, estate agents and surveyors Halls, based in Shrewsbury, who says it's important that landowners protect their interests.

He revealed that Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) would soon be contacting landowners about the precise locations of proposed wooden pylons for the new line. This consultation phase will be followed by a formal application by SPEN in 2018 for government consent for the route.

"SPEN will wish to discuss precise pole locations on land with individual landowners," he added.

"They will subsequently be asking landowners to sign an option agreement to secure their co-operation to the principle of the new power lines along the route.

"Landowners should carefully consider the proximity of the proposed routes to houses and buildings and the long-term impact upon their businesses.

"Whilst SPEN will ask for an option agreement to be signed, that document does not detail the compensation provisions for the poles.

"We have had direct discussion with SPEN on compensation principles, so we are aware of its proposal.

"As appointed valuers on the NFU Rural Surveyors Panel, Halls is involved in close discussion with the NFU on the details of the proposed route."

Initiatives aim to help drivers

MOTORISTS in Powys have the opportunity to become safer road users thanks to a number of road safety initiatives provided by the county council.

Powys County Council's Road Safety Unit works hard to provide education, training and publicity in an attempt to reduce the number of collisions and casualties on the county's roads. The majority of this work is funded by the Welsh Government.

Some of the initiatives now available to Powys motorists include Pass Plus Cymru, Driver Theory Refresher, Mature Motoring, Ride On and Biker Down.

Cllr John Brunt, Cabinet Member for Road Safety said: "Ensuring that our roads are safe for everyone is an important aim and our Road Safety Unit is at the forefront of many successful initiatives. There has been a significant amount of work carried out by the unit to cut the number of collisions and casualties in Powys.

"We are dedicated to providing road safety education and training to all Powys residents through numerous initiatives and projects.

"Our trained road safety officers also provide advice on all aspects of road safety including the correct fitting of child car seats, anti-drinking driving and driving for work."

Chimney fires warning issued

HOUSEHOLDERS have been warned to ensure their chimneys are properly cleaned, following a spike in the number of fires in the region.

Firefighters on the Powys and Shropshire border have been busy recently dealing with a number of chimney fires which have prompted the warning from fire chiefs.

On February 11, three fire engines from Shrewsbury were called to help tackle a chimney fire that had spread to the roof of a house at Broniarth Bridge in Melfod.

Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service have taken to Twitter to let the public know of the increased number of call-outs they have had to attend recently, and have backed it up with advice to owners.

That advice includes having the chimney professionally cleaned at least once a year, and if wood is burning, the frequency should increase to every three months.



Casualty
8.40pm
David prepares to hand Ollie over to his aunt, who will be taking him back to Rosa in Spain. With their separation imminent, father and son spend one last day together – in the ER. Iain suspects Gem is up to her old tricks when she short-changes a customer at the coffee shop.



Live Athletics: European Indoor Championships
8.30am
The morning session on day two from the Kombank Arena in Belgrade, Serbia, which features the opening round of the women's and men's 60m, the qualifying round of the men's shot put, high jump and long jump, and the commencement of the men's heptathlon.



Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway
7pm
The popular duo's entertainment show continues, as Robbie Williams and his wife Ayda Field join the pair for this year's first I'm A Celebrity Get Out of Me Ear. Brendan O'Carroll, otherwise known as Agnes Brown of Mrs Brown's Boys, serves as this week's guest announcer.



Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service
8pm
The actress travels around the country to visit the Queen's official residences and meet people with royal appointments. The journey begins in Windsor Castle, where she finds out about Britain's oldest order of chivalry.



Football on 5: The Championship
9pm
George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Huddersfield Town v Newcastle United at John Smith's Stadium, Blackburn Rovers v Wigan Athletic at Ewood Park, and Fulham v Preston North End.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. Jennifer Saunders joins Michel Roux Jr for breakfast this weekend, as chefs Michael O'Hare and Paul Ainsworth step into the kitchen to prepare more culinary delights.
11.30 Mary Berry Everyday. The food writer celebrates the everyday food and ingredients she has always loved. (R)
12.00 Football Focus. Dan Walker and guests review the week's headlines.
1.00 BBC News; Weather.
1.15 Bargain Hunt. Catherine Southon and David Harper seek valuable objects in Ardingly, West Sussex.
2.15 My Life: The Boy on the Bicycle. The story of a boy living in a refugee camp.
2.45 FILM: Monsters vs Aliens (2009). Animated sci-fi comedy, with the voice of Reese Witherspoon.
4.10 Final Score. Jason Mohammad presents a round-up of the classified results.
5.10 Celebrity Mastermind. With Cheryl Fergison, Stacey Dooley, Kellie Maloney and Jane Hazlegrove. (R)
5.40 BBC News.
5.50 Midlands Today; Weather.
6.00 Pointless Celebrities. Hugh Dennis and Pauline McLynn, Charlie Higson and Adil Ray, Richard Gibson and Vicki Michelle, and Jean Fergusson and Tina Malone compete in the unorthodox quiz show. (R)
6.45 Let's Sing and Dance for Comic Relief. New series. Mel Giedroyc and Sue Perkins present the all-star talent show, in which celebrity performers display their musical talents via interpretations of various pop hits.
8.00 Who Dares Wins. Game show in which two pairs of complete strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.
8.40 Casualty. David spends one last day with Ollie before his aunt takes him back to Spain, while Louise and Dylan try convince the board to help them tackle alcohol abuse.
9.30 Mrs Brown's Boys. Rory and Dino have a bust-up, Mark and Betty announce they are leaving for Australia right away and a phone call causes the Brown children to suspect one of them may be adopted. (R)
10.00 BBC News; Weather; National Lottery Update.
10.20 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Leicester City v Hull City at King Power Stadium, and Liverpool v Arsenal at Anfield.
11.45 This Country. Kerry becomes a door-to-door saleswoman and Kurtan makes new friends in the village. Mockumentary presenting a wry look at the lives of young people living in modern, rural Britain.
12.10 FILM: Papadopoulos & Sons (2012). Comedy, with Stephen Dillane and Georgia Groome.
1.55 Weather for the Week Ahead.
2.00 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.25 FILM: North West Frontier (1959).** Action adventure.
8.30 Live Athletics: European Indoor Championships. Coverage of the morning session on day two.
10.00 Ireland's Wild River: The Mighty Shannon – Natural World. The wildlife that lives along the River Shannon. (R)
11.00 Homes Under the Hammer. Lucy Alexander views a flat in Kilburn, north-west London. (R)
12.00 Two Greedy Italians: Still Hungry. The chefs explore the coastal region of Liguria. (R)
1.00 The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. The pastry chef puts her own twist on the French dish cassoulet. (R)
1.30 Escape to the Country. Searching for a home in Oxfordshire. (R)
2.15 Mastermind. John Humphrys introduces the 2017 final. Last in the series. (R)
3.15 University Challenge. The quarter-final matches continue. (R)
3.45 Only Connect. The Psmiths take on the Cosmopolitans in a quarter-final match. (R)
4.15 Live Athletics: European Indoor Championships. Gabby Logan presents coverage of the evening session on day two.
8.15 Grand Tours of the Scottish Islands. Paul Murton visits the island outposts of Shetland, where he encounters newborn lambs and watches a traditional sword dance, before taking a trip on a trawler.
8.45 Dad's Army. Sgt Wilson struggles to concentrate on his Home Guard duties when he has a personal problem to contend with. (R)
9.15 Live at the Apollo. Australian comedy star Adam Hills introduces US comic Michelle Wolf and sharp-witted Jamali Maddix to the stage at London's Hammersmith Apollo. (R)
10.00 Martin Scorsese: True Confessions. Nick James interviews Academy Award-winning director Martin Scorsese on his fascination with themes of masculinity, religion, crime, and life in New York.
10.30 FILM: Mean Streets (1973). A small-time crook's conscience and loyalty to his girlfriend conflict with his desire to rise in the criminal world. Martin Scorsese's drama, with Robert De Niro.
12.20 Taboo. James Delaney sets about enlisting allies to help him reclaim his legacy, but an unexpected arrival at the reading of his father's will threatens to disrupt his plans. (R)
1.20 Taboo. James Delaney makes an unlikely ally in the form of the mysterious Dr Dumbarton, and tries to find a way to escape the attentions of his many enemies within London society. (R)
2.15 FILM: Witchfinder General (1968). A 17th-century lawyer callously destroys innocent lives while serving as a witchfinder, but meets his match in a vengeful soldier. Horror, starring Vincent Price and Ian Ogilvy.
3.40 This is BBC2.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Sooty 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Thunderbirds Are Go**
7.30 Scrambled!: Scrambled! Two hours of children's fun.
7.35 Scrambled!: Mr Bean: The Animated Series. An old photo album makes Bean reminisce. (R)
7.50 Scrambled!: Horrid Henry. Cartoon about a mischievous youngster. (R)
8.10 Scrambled!: Teen Titans Go! The teenage superheroes fight to save the world.
8.30 Scrambled!: Bear Grylls Survival School. The pupils "panther crawl" across a raging river and go head-to-head building a shelter.
9.05 Scrambled!: Adventure Time. Fun for children. (R)
9.25 Alphabetical. Quiz, hosted by Jeff Stelling. (R)
10.20 Guess This House. Property game show, hosted by Saira Khan. (R)
11.20 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
11.25 The Voice UK. The second night of the Battles phase. (R)
1.30 ITV Racing: Live from Doncaster. Ed Chamberlin presents coverage of the BetBright Festival at Doncaster, featuring races at 1.50, 2.25, 3.00 and 3.35, plus races from Newbury at 2.05, 2.40 and 3.15.
4.00 You've Been Framed! Comical clips, narrated by Harry Hill. (R)
4.30 ITV News Central; Weather.
4.45 ITV News and Weather.
5.00 FILM: Despicable Me 2 (2013). Animated comedy sequel, with the voice of Steve Carell.
7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. Robbie Williams and his wife Ayda Field take part in I'm A Celebrity Get Out of Me Ear, while Brendan O'Carroll – AKA Mrs Brown – serves as this week's guest announcer.
8.30 The Voice UK. The contest switches gear once again in the first live knock-out show, beginning as Jennifer Hudson's six acts are whittled down to three via head-to-head performances.
9.45 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.00 Lethal Weapon. A maverick cop is partnered with a veteran detective trying to maintain a low stress level. Action drama based on the films, starring Clayne Crawford and Damon Wayans. (R)
10.55 FILM: First Blood (1982). A Vietnam veteran escapes unjust imprisonment and flees into the wilderness, where he fights the law on his own terms. Action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone.
12.40 Jackpot247. Viewers get the chance to participate in live interactive gaming from the comfort of their sofas, with a mix of roulette-wheel spins and lively chat from the presenting team.
3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? Sian Lloyd hosts a dinner party for four guests who win a cash prize if they can guess her identity from cryptic culinary clues. (R)
3.50 ITV Nightscreen.

Channel 4

- 6.20 The King of Queens. (R)**
6.45 The King of Queens. (R)
7.10 The King of Queens. (R)
7.35 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R)
8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. Michael embarrasses the family. (R)
8.30 Frasier. The shrink is reunited with his old Cheers gang. (R)
9.00 Frasier. The shrink struggles to reach a new audience. (R)
9.30 The Big Bang Theory. Sheldon re-evaluates the time he spends with Amy. (R)
10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R)
10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R)
10.55 The Simpsons. Santa's Little Helper runs away from home. (R)
11.30 The Simpsons. (R)
12.00 Jamie and Jimmy's Friday Night Feast. With guest Salma Hayek. (R)
1.00 Come Dine with Me. Performing arts teacher Helen hosts the first dinner party in Sheffield. (R)
1.30 Come Dine with Me. Design and technology teacher Claire hosts the second party in Sheffield. (R)
2.00 Come Dine with Me. Service administrator Monika hosts the third night in Sheffield. (R)
2.30 Come Dine with Me. New romantic musician Ivor hosts day four in Sheffield. (R)
3.00 Come Dine with Me. Former chef Simon hosts the final meal in Sheffield. (R)
3.30 A Place in the Sun: Summer Sun. A family home in the Orihuela Costa region of Spain. (R)
4.35 Location, Location, Location. Kirstie Allsopp and Phil Spencer go house hunting in Northern Ireland. (R)
5.35 Grand Designs. Mark and Candida Diacono seek to build a plough-shaped home in rural Devon. (R)
6.30 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Escape to the Chateau. Series following a British family that buys and restores a French chateau. Their new home has stood empty for 40 years, and has no electricity, heating or water. (R)
8.00 Penelope Keith at Her Majesty's Service. The actress travels the country to visit the Queen's residences. The journey begins in Windsor Castle, where she finds out about Britain's oldest order of chivalry. (R)
9.00 FILM: The Wolverine (2013). The former member of the X-Men travels to Japan, and protects a tycoon's granddaughter from assassins. Superhero adventure spin-off, with Hugh Jackman and Tao Okamoto.
11.25 FILM: Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter (2012). A man destined to become one of America's greatest presidents devotes his life to battling the undead. Fantasy thriller, starring Benjamin Walker and Dominic Cooper.
1.20 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R)
2.10 Hollyoaks.
4.25 Building the Dream.
5.20 Fifteen to One. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig 6.05 Peppa Pig 6.10 Milkshake! Monkey 6.15 Milkshake! Bop Box 6.20 Paw Patrol 6.30 Bob the Builder 6.40 Fireman Sam 6.55 Rupert Bear 7.05 Olly the Little White Van 7.10 Wanda and the Alien 7.20 Angelina Ballerina 7.35 Little Princess 7.45 Paw Patrol 8.00 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.25 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 9.00 Shimmer and Shine 9.25 Peppa Pig 9.35 Peppa Pig 9.45 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom**
9.55 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R)
10.30 Access.
10.35 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R)
11.35 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. (R)
12.35 Benefits Britain: Life on the Dole. People living on state welfare in Scotland. (R)
1.30 Dance Moms. Abby informs her girls they will compete in the national championships.
2.25 Dance Moms. The mothers allow the girls to wear revealing outfits.
3.20 Dance Moms. Kelly's daughter risks an injury.
4.15 The Nightmarer Neighbour Next Door. Three disputes concerning noise levels. (R)
5.15 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. High court eviction officer Kevin Stokes faces a physical assault.
6.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)
7.05 NCIS: Los Angeles. Neil goes undercover at the Department of Defence after a researcher is found dead, and a new addition fails to endear himself to the rest of the team.
8.00 NCIS. A petty officer is suspected of murdering his ex-girlfriend, and volunteers to be court-martialled so that the NCIS team will investigate and perhaps prove his innocence.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games, including Huddersfield Town v Newcastle United, and Blackburn Rovers v Wigan Athletic.
10.00 Football on 5: Goal Rush. All the goals from the weekend's games in Leagues One and Two, including Rochdale v Sheffield United, and Plymouth Argyle v Carlisle United.
10.30 Conspiracy: Pearl Harbor Cover-Up. Suggestions of a cover-up in relation to the Japanese attack in December 1941, alleging it was actually masterminded by US president Franklin D Roosevelt.
11.30 Criminals: Caught on Camera. Nick Wallis discovers how CCTV and technological advances are helping to tackle criminals exhibiting a complete disregard for the safety of others while at the wheel of a vehicle. (R)
12.00 SuperCasino.
3.10 Inside Windsor Castle. (R)
4.00 The Cars That Made Britain Great. (R)
4.50 House Doctor. (R)
5.15 Wildlife SOS. (R)
5.40 Angels of Jarm. (R)
5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)



Call the Midwife

8pm

Dr Turner is reunited with a couple whose daughter was born without limbs, and takes them to a specialist unit where she can be fitted for prosthetics. However, while the experience helps the girl's mother to realise that she is not alone, it proves traumatic for the father.



Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week

9pm

The seven remaining contestants arrive in Australia for the final challenge, where they undergo training with the Special Air Service Regiment – but must first undergo a gruelling exercise to see if they are physically prepared for what is to come.



The Good Karma Hospital

9pm

Lydia and Ruby visit a convent to make a seemingly miraculous diagnosis, but the treatment of a young nun and the senior doctor's interfering attitude creates tension between them, which finally erupts in a fierce confrontation. Maggie and Paul join a group of pilgrims on a trek through the jungle.



Fantastic Four

4.30pm

A scientist and four members of his crew develop superhuman powers after exposure to cosmic radiation on a mission to study an energy storm in space. Unfortunately, one of them chooses to use his new-found abilities for evil purposes. Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Ioan Gruffudd.



The Bruce Forsyth Story: From the Palladium to the Palace

9pm

A look back at the entertainer's 75 years in showbiz, featuring candid interviews with Forsyth and contributions from biographers, colleagues and famous fans. The programme charts his early career in London's variety clubs.

BBC1

- 6.00 Breakfast.**
7.30 Match of the Day. Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Leicester City v Hull City at King Power Stadium, and Liverpool v Arsenal at Anfield. (R)
9.00 The Andrew Marr Show.
10.00 The Big Questions. Nicky Campbell presents moral and religious discussions on topical issues from Northumbria Students' Union in Newcastle.
11.00 Sunday Politics West Midlands. The week's events at Westminster, presented by Andrew Neil. Including a regional round-up.
12.15 Bargain Hunt. From Hungerford, Berkshire. (R)
1.00 BBC News; Weather.
1.15 Homes Under the Hammer. Properties in Croydon, Donnington and Derby. (R)
2.15 Flog It! From Warwick Castle. (R)
3.15 Escape to the Country. A composer searches for a home in the Shropshire countryside. (R)
4.00 Songs of Praise. Marking the 30th anniversary of the Zeebrugge ferry disaster.
4.35 Shop Well for Less? Helping families change the way they shop. (R)
5.35 BBC News.
5.50 Midlands Today; Weather.
6.00 The Big Painting Challenge. The artists visit the National Portrait Gallery, where they are challenged to produce a self-portrait and capture the likenesses of Angela Rippon and Floella Benjamin on canvas.
7.00 Countryfile. The team explores the South Downs. Helen Skelton discovers why dark skies are important for animals, and John Craven visits the Bloomsbury Group's rural retreat.
8.00 Call the Midwife. Dr Turner helps a couple whose daughter was born without limbs to have her fitted for prosthetics – but the experience provokes different reactions from her mother and father.
9.00 SS-GB. Archer tracks down Spode, who confesses to murdering his brother, before going in search of the missing atomic bomb plans – but the resistance are still targeting him.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Midlands Today; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, which featured Tottenham Hotspur v Everton at White Hart Lane, and Sunderland v Manchester City at The Stadium of Light.
11.35 American High School. A student whose father is in prison has developed his own business and hopes to make a success of his life – but one poor decision throws his entire future into jeopardy.
12.20 The Celebrity Apprentice USA. The celebrities are tasked to write, produce and direct a demonstrational 90-second video for LG's Smart Home and Home Entertainment Systems.
1.45 Weather for the Week Ahead.
1.50 BBC News.

BBC2

- 6.30 A to Z of TV Gardening.** Carol Kirkwood looks at themes beginning with the letter E. (R)
7.15 An Island Parish. The residents of Sark prepare for Christmas. (R)
7.45 Around the World in 80 Gardens. Monty Don travels to India to visit the gardens of the Taj Mahal. (R)
8.45 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Ellie Harrison present the show from the Isle of Man. (R)
9.45 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. Matt Tebbutt presents highlights of the series, recalling his favourite moments from previous years in the kitchen.
11.15 Nigel Slater's Dish of the Day. Making produce and ingredients go further. (R)
11.45 Nigellissima. Dishes include a plum and amaretti crumble and chocolate pasta with butterscotch sauce. Last in the series. (R)
12.15 MOTD2 Extra. Mark Chapman presents football discussion.
1.00 Triathlon. Highlights of the opening round of the ITU World Triathlon Series from Abu Dhabi in United Arab Emirates, featuring the men's and women's races.
2.30 Live Athletics: European Indoor Championships. Gabby Logan presents coverage of the third and final day from the Kombank Arena in Belgrade, Serbia, where medals are awarded in 11 events.
7.00 Robot Wars. New series. Dara Ó Briain and Angela Scanlon present the first group heat, with eight teams battling it out for a place in the grand final. With commentary by Jonathan Pearce.
8.00 Top Gear. New series. Chris Harris test-drives the Ferrari FXXK at the Daytona circuit and is joined by Matt LeBlanc and Rory Reid to race across Kazakhstan in three high-mileage cars.
9.00 Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week. The final challenge sees seven contestants undergoing gruelling training and tactical interrogation under members of the Australian Special Air Service Regiment. Last in the series.
10.00 FILM: London Road (2015). Premiere. Ipswich residents' real accounts of a series of murders committed in their neighbourhood are presented in song. Fact-based musical, starring Olivia Colman and Tom Hardy.
11.30 FILM: Papillon (1973). A Frenchman imprisoned for life on Devil's Island for a crime he did not commit makes a desperate bid for freedom. Fact-based drama, starring Steve McQueen.
1.55 Taboo. As both the Crown and London turn against him, James Delaney enlists the depraved chemist Cholmondeley into his company, and Lorna aims to prove she is anything but a weak link. (R)
2.55 Sign Zone: Question Time. Topical debate from Bedford. (R)
3.55 Sign Zone: Holby City. Raf enthusiastically makes plans for the future with Kim and the twins he is to be a father of. However, his hopes and dreams look set to be dashed by a series of revelations. (R)
4.50 This Is BBC2.

ITV

- 6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show!** 6.25 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.35 Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures 6.45 Sooty 6.55 Signed Stories: Share a Story 7.00 Oddbods 7.05 Thunderbirds Are Go 7.30 Scrambled! 7.35 Mr Bean: The Animated Series 7.50 Ultimate Spider-Man: Web Warriors 8.20 Horrid Henry 8.45 Teen Titans Go! 9.05 Adventure Time
9.25 ITV News.
9.30 Countrywise: Guide to Britain. Liz Bonnin visits the tiny island of Lunga. (R)
10.00 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine.
10.55 Gino's Italian Escape: Hidden Italy. (R)
11.25 Chopping Block. Four couples face three culinary challenges. (R)
12.25 Who's Doing the Dishes? With former Emmerdale actress Deena Payne. (R)
1.30 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
1.35 The Voice UK. The first of the live knock-out shows. (R)
2.50 Little Big Shots. Variety show featuring some of the world's most talented children. (R)
3.50 The Chase. Quiz show, hosted by Bradley Walsh. (R)
4.50 Tipping Point. Game show, hosted by Ben Shephard. (R)
5.50 ITV News Central; Weather.
6.00 ITV News and Weather.
6.15 Harry Hill's Alien Fun Capsule. Madcap panel show presented by the comedian, who presides over two teams nominally tasked with saving the planet from any potential alien invasion. (R)
6.40 Five Gold Rings. New series. Game show, hosted by Phillip Schofield, in which contestants compete to identify images on an LED floor while viewers can play along using the series app.
7.45 The Voice UK. The second live knockout show, which sees three of Tom Jones' acts eliminated, while the others go through to a place in the quarter final. Jennifer Hudson performs in the studio.
9.00 The Good Karma Hospital. Lydia and Ruby visit a convent to make a seemingly miraculous diagnosis, but the treatment of a young nun and the senior doctor's interfering attitude creates tension between them.
10.00 ITV News and Weather; Weather.
10.20 The Nightly Show Best Bits. New series. Highlights from the previous week's episodes of the show, featuring David Walliams as the host.
10.50 Peston on Sunday. Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, with ITV News National Editor Allegra Stratton. (R)
11.50 Premiership Rugby Union. Mark Durden-Smith and David Flatman present action from the 17th round of fixtures, including Leicester Tigers v Exeter Chiefs, Bath v Wasps, and Newcastle Falcons v Saracens.
12.40 Jackpot247.
3.00 Chopping Block. (R)
3.50 ITV Nightscreen.
5.05 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

Channel 4

- 6.15 The King of Queens.** Doug and Deacon cover for Supervisor O'Boyle. (R)
6.40 The King of Queens. Doug ruins the Palmers' holiday plans. (R)
7.05 The King of Queens. Doug adopts a dog. (R)
7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. Frank becomes jealous of Marco and Marie's friendship. (R)
7.55 Everybody Loves Raymond. Ray is propositioned by an attractive woman. (R)
8.25 Frasier. Roz goes to a family reunion. (R)
9.00 Frasier. Niles persuades Daphne's father to visit Seattle. (R)
9.30 Sunday Brunch. With guests Guy Garvey and Conor Maynard.
12.30 The Simpsons. Lisa tries to become a dancer. (R)
1.00 The Simpsons. Otto breaks up with his new bride. (R)
1.30 The Simpsons. Spoof behind-the-scenes special. (R)
2.00 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. A helicopter being converted into luxury overnight accommodation. (R)
3.00 Location, Location, Location. Homes in the commuter county of Kent. (R)
4.00 Channel 4 News.
4.30 FILM: Fantastic Four (2005). Sci-fi comic-book adventure, starring Ioan Gruffudd.
6.30 The Jump. The remaining contestants compete for a place in the final, battling it out in the air jump and the Giant Slalom – the fastest event in the competition. Presented by Davina McCall.
8.00 Rivers with Jeremy Paxman. The presenter explores the River Severn, visiting the largest ship graveyard in the country, taking part in a coracle regatta, and meeting a poet at the river's source.
9.00 Homeland. Carrie follows a lead, and Keane takes a stand. Starring Claire Danes, Rupert Friend and Mandy Patinkin.
10.00 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. (R)
11.00 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown. Jimmy Carr hosts the words-and-numbers quiz as Sean Lock and Henning Wehn compete against Jon Richardson and Victoria Coren Mitchell. (R)
12.00 FILM: Broken City (2013). A New York private eye hired to find out if the mayor's wife is having an affair discovers a web of political corruption. Crime thriller, with Mark Wahlberg and Russell Crowe.
2.00 The Last Leg. With Rob Delaney and Sharon Horgan. (R)
2.55 Under Lock and Key. The stories of families whose loved ones are locked away in hospitals. (R)
3.50 Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. A pink property in Southend-on-Sea. (R)
4.45 Kirstie's Vintage Gems. Kirstie Allsopp creates a 1960s-themed haven. (R)

Channel 5

- 6.00 Milkshake!** Peppa Pig 6.05 Peppa Pig 6.10 Milkshake! Monkey 6.15 Milkshake! Bop Box 6.20 Paw Patrol 6.30 Bob the Builder 6.45 Fireman Sam 6.55 Rupert Bear 7.05 Olly the Little White Van 7.10 Wanda and the Alien 7.25 Little Princess 7.35 Paw Patrol 7.50 Blaze and the Monster Machines 8.20 Noddy: Toyland Detective 8.35 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom 8.50 Shimmer and Shine 9.20 Peppa Pig 9.30 Peppa Pig 9.40 Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom
9.50 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R)
10.25 Football on 5: The Championship. George Riley and Lynsey Hipgrave introduce highlights from the weekend's games. (R)
11.20 Football on 5: Goal Rush. (R)
11.50 FILM: The Fifth Element (1997). Sci-fi adventure, starring Bruce Willis.
2.10 FILM: Spies Like Us (1985). Comedy, starring Chevy Chase and Dan Aykroyd.
4.10 Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh. The stories of the child workers of the Industrial Revolution. (R)
5.10 Cruising with Jane McDonald. The presenter heads to Alaska, America's largest state. Last in the series. (R)
6.05 Inside Windsor Castle. Documentary marking the centenary of the Windsor dynasty by examining the history of the royal residence over the past 80 years, beginning with the fire of 1992. (R)
7.00 Inside Windsor Castle. A look back at the series of events that shaped the monarchy between 1936 and 1952, using dramatic reconstructions and an extraordinary archive of film. (R)
8.00 Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords. New series. Cases include a woman with rental arrears of almost £3,000 after renting a house out, and a team investigates poor living conditions above a Birmingham shop.
8.55 5 News Weekend.
9.00 The Bruce Forsyth Story: From the Palladium to the Palace. New series. A look back at the entertainer's 75 years in showbiz, featuring candid interviews with Forsyth and contributions from biographers, colleagues and famous fans.
10.30 An Audience with Bruce Forsyth. The versatile veteran entertainer reveals his many talents in a feast of song and dance before a VIP audience, who quiz him about his remarkable career. (R)
11.35 Bruce Forsyth's Comedy Heroes. The entertainer discusses his favourite comics, including Max Miller, Laurel and Hardy and Harry Hill. Contributors include Michael Grade, Jimmy Tarbuck and Barry Cryer. (R)
12.35 Peter Kay: The Early Years. (R)
12.55 SuperCasino.
3.10 Secrets of the National Trust with Alan Titchmarsh. (R)
4.00 When Kids Kill: Catfish Killer. (R)
4.50 House Doctor. (R)
5.15 Wildlife SOS. (R)
5.40 Angels of Jarm. (R)
5.50 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

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deaths



BRANNICK

Harold
(Harry)

Our Family is saddened to inform you of our recent loss of Harry, who passed away on Friday, February 17, 2017, aged 83 years. Loving Husband of the late Hazel, much loved Father to Antony, Christopher and Hilary, Father-in-law to Aarti, Cecelia and Greg and a dearly loved Grandfather to Anjali, Lakshmi, Michaela, Ben, Phillip, George and Ivory.

All Family and Friends are welcome to attend the Funeral at Holy Trinity Parish Church, Oswestry, on Wednesday, March 8, at 11am. No black to be worn please.

Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Alzheimer's Society.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

**HARVEY
Frank Huw**

Of Oswestry formerly of Wrexham. Passed away on, February 18, 2017, aged 82 years. Beloved Husband of Joan and much loved Stepfather of Carolyn and Lawrence and a dear Brother of Reg.

Funeral Service at Pentrebychan Crematorium, Wrexham on Friday, March 10, at 2pm.

Family flowers only but donations if desired to Nightingale House Hospice, Wrexham and Severn Hospice at Home.

Inquiries to

W. E. PRICE

Funeral Directors,

Oakwood,

Salop Road,

Oswestry,

Shropshire,

SY11 2RN.

Telephone: 01691 652995

RYAN

Mark Luke

Passed away suddenly at home on February 11, 2017, aged 56 years. A much loved Dad, Son and Brother.

Funeral Service at Our Lady and St Oswald's Roman Catholic Church, Oswestry, on Thursday, March 9, at 11am, followed by Interment at Oswestry Cemetery.

Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Midlands Air Ambulance.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

STOKES

Francis Peter

(Pete - Tick Tock)

Peacefully on February 17, 2017, aged 77 years. Of Gobowen. Much loved Brother of Anne, Barbara, Michael and Alison. Will be sadly missed by all his Family and Friends.

Funeral Service at All Saints Parish Church, Gobowen, on Tuesday, March 7, at 2pm, followed by Cremation at Pentrebychan Crematorium, Wrexham.

Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The League of Friends at Chirk Hospital and The Llangollen Steam Railway.

All inquiries to

DAVID DAVIES & SONS

1 Upper Church Street

Oswestry

Telephone 01691 653116.

WELLINGS

Joy

Of York Street, Oswestry, passed away at The Royal Shrewsbury Hospital on February 17, 2017, aged 75 years.

Funeral Service, 2pm, Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at Telford Crematorium.

Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Cancer Research UK, for which a collection box will be provided at the Crematorium.

All inquiries

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MOTORING

All-new Toyota Prius model to cost less than outgoing

The all-new Toyota Prius Plug-in offers customers much more in terms of advanced technology, equipment, safety features and driving rewards than the original model that it's replacing. Those benefits now extend to a lower price tag as well, with a reduction in on-the-road prices prior to the car's official on-sale date.

Grant

Toyota has been able bring down the price of both the Business Edition Plus and Excel models by £3,200. Factoring in the £2,500 available for new car purchases through the UK Government's plug-in vehicle grant scheme, the new range is now available to customers from just £29,195 – more than £2,000 less than the cost of the previous Prius Plug-in.

The Prius Plug-in marks a further development of Toyota's world-leading hybrid technology, benefiting from a new Dual Motor EV Drive system and a higher capacity lithium-ion battery to double its emissions-free electric driving range to more than 30 miles. The car can also be driven at higher speeds using just its electric power and the recharging process is more rapid – as little as two hours for a full charge.

Built on the same new Toyota New



All-new Toyota Prius Plug-in

Global Architecture platform as the latest, fourth generation Prius, the plug-in hybrid delivers much-improved ride and handling.

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with Toyota Touch 2 with Go infotainment and navigation, colour head-up display, auto-dimming, auto-retracting door mirrors, heated front seats and world-first gas-injection heat pump air conditioning.

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Automatics

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MOTURING

Sound base for new ASX makes it a stable package

By John Griffiths

MITSUBISHI ASX, FROM £15,999 TO £26,949

Mitsubishi is perhaps best known for some of its niche vehicles - from the Shogun range of SUVs to the high performance Evo saloons.

Just a few years ago the company combined the experience and expertise of both to produce a 'mass market' machine, the ASX cross-over.

It was a timely decision, coming as it did at the start of the surge in sales of SUV-styled vehicles which shows no sign of abating.

Now, in the face of increasing competition in this sector, Mitsubishi has unveiled the second generation ASX, with a new look, completely redesigned interior, new entertainment system and technology, and a range of new, fuel-efficient engines.

It is sharply priced compared to its rivals - from £15,999 to £26,949 - and comes with a five year warranty to boot. At first sight, though, even the new front end of the ASX doesn't make it stand out from a raft of SUV rivals.

Stand-out

But under the skin it has stand-out features, including the fact that it's built on the same platform as the legendary Evo, and is available with the same four-wheel drive system - including yaw control - which have helped that car become a winner on all types of surfaces.

That may be one of the reasons why 48 per cent of ASX models sold here have been those with 4WD - as opposed to as little as three per cent of its pseudo SUV rivals.

Originally sold with 1.6 litre petrol or 1.8 litre diesel engines, the ASX now comes with the option of 1.6, 115bhp petrol, 112bhp 1.6 turbo diesel and a 2.2 litre, 147bhp turbo diesel.

Four wheel drive is only available on diesel versions while automatic transmission is available on the 1.6 diesel, standard on the 2.2.

Fuel consumption and emissions range from 61.4mpg and a low 119g/km with the 1.6 diesel manual, two wheel drive version, to a very competitive 48.7mpg and 152g/km for the 2.2 diesel with both automatic transmission and four wheel drive.

Performance

Weight saving, new low-energy LED lights and a regenerative braking system as well as engine refinements have helped to increase the car's performance and fuel efficiency.

The ASX is a few millimetres smaller than some rivals, but its relatively long wheelbase (and therefore short overhangs) are a bonus when off-roading, as well as freeing up generous levels of interior space. It can accommodate up to five adults and 419 litres of luggage (or 1,193 litres with the rear seats folded down).

The 2.2 diesel in the test car was lively (0 to 62mph in 10.8 seconds) but perhaps more important to drivers is the way it performed. With 147bhp and 340Nm of torque plus a rapidly responding auto transmission it was quiet and smooth, rarely breathing heavily, which adds to ride refinement.

You can change gear manually with the usual paddles behind the steering wheel, but there's no real need even when overtaking.

The manual option is useful, though, for additional retardation on long downhill stretches.



The second-generation ASX has a new look, redesigned interior and new fuel-efficient engines

The suspension in the latest model has been revised, too - considerably softer than a traditional SUV and with an accent on ride comfort, although there is little rock 'n' roll through winding stretches of road.

With the high 'command' driving position and visibility, plus the new upgraded interior, it makes the ASX a pleasant and relaxing car to drive.

When the going gets slippery, the computer-controlled 4WD auto mode means the amount of power diverted to the rear wheels can vary between two and 50 per cent, according to traction demands.

For more serious conditions, there's a 4WD 'lock' position.

The base model is the ASX 2 (what happened to 1?) is well equipped with alloy wheels, air conditioning, upgraded seat trim, active stability and traction control, and a high contrast LCD instrument display. The ASX 3 adds climate control, DAB radio, rear privacy glass, automatic lights and wipers, front fog lamps and cruise control.

Next up, the ASX3 gets leather upholstery, four-wheel drive, aluminium pedals, a panoramic sunroof and a touch screen display with satnav and reversing camera.

The top of the range SX 4 comes with premium interior trim including Nappa leather, heated seats for those in the back as well as the front and USB charging points to help keep rear seat passengers happy with their journey-breaking technology.

The ASX's latest interior upgrades bring it up to scratch with many newer rivals for comfort and convenience, while improvements in efficiency help mitigate rising fuel and taxation costs.

As clearly recognised by its percentage of four wheel drive sales, it's already recognised for its keep-going anywhere capability.

That shouldn't be a surprise as Mitsubishi has been producing 4WD vehicles longer than both Land Rover and Jeep - since 1933, in fact, and the ASX shares its platform and set-up of a rally icon which keeps its traction and stability on and off the road.

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Sky Bet League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sheff Wed	34	20	6	6	31	68	
Sheff Utd	33	17	10	6	59	34	
Fleetwood	34	17	10	7	50	32	61
Bolton Wals	34	17	7	8	44	27	58
Bradford City	34	16	5	44	32	55	
Southend	34	14	11	9	52	43	53
Milwall	33	14	10	12	40	50	
P'boro Utd	34	8	8	64	46	50	
Oxford Utd	32	14	7	11	42	39	49
Rochdale	32	14	6	12	45	48	
Carlisle Rvs	34	12	11	11	51	53	47
Walsall	34	11	13	10	41	42	
Wimbleton	33	10	13	10	44	43	
Clifton Athl	33	9	15	9	40	35	42
Bury	34	10	17	51	61	37	
N'hampton	34	11	7	16	50	57	
Gillingham	34	9	12	13	44	40	
Shrewsbury	34	10	16	35	47	38	
Blackburn	34	9	17	51	61	37	
Oldham Athl	34	8	12	14	21	33	36
Port Vale	32	8	10	14	34	51	
Widowson	34	8	17	32	48	33	
Chesham	34	7	20	56	28		
Coventry City	33	5	10	18	29	52	25

Vanarama National N

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
AFC Fylde	31	21	6	4	87	49	
Salisbury City	31	17	8	6	33	51	
Salisbury	31	17	8	6	33	51	
Chorley	31	16	10	5	47	29	58
Halifax	29	16	6	7	62	37	54
Stockport City	31	15	7	7	35	54	
Darlington	30	14	8	8	64	50	
Tamworth	31	15	5	11	51	53	50
Hargrave	31	14	7	10	54	42	49
Cloughdale	31	14	4	13	31	46	
Brackley	28	12	9	7	42	34	
Curzon Ashton	31	11	7	13	49	56	40
F.C. of Man.	31	9	10	12	50	52	37
Nuneaton	30	8	13	19	43	53	
Boston Utd	31	8	14	13	40	35	
Telford Utd	30	7	10	13	26	31	
Alfreton	30	7	15	15	32	31	
Bradford	30	6	10	14	37	37	
Gainsborough	31	7	9	15	42	63	30
Worcester City	31	6	10	15	45	47	28
S'bridge Celtic	28	4	21	24	63	15	
Altrincham	28	4	21	24	63	15	

Evo-Stik League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Shaw Lane	27	20	5	2	70	22	65
Spalding Utd	29	15	8	6	30	32	41
North Utd	28	11	10	7	38	37	
Newcastle	30	17	10	4	46	38	
Rushden & D.	30	14	10	5	37	32	
Basford Utd	33	15	10	8	47	42	
Leak	30	14	10	5	46	38	
Sheffield	32	12	7	13	49	43	
Kidsgrove Athl	32	12	6	15	55	42	
Bedworth Utd	32	12	6	14	58	42	
Chasston	32	12	6	14	58	42	
Belper	29	11	8	3	29	29	
S'bridge P's	32	12	5	10	34	41	
North Utd	28	11	7	10	38	37	
Romulus	31	12	10	9	46	38	
Mk Drayton	33	12	10	11	48	44	
Stamford	30	10	6	14	42	38	
Carlisle	30	10	7	15	39	49	
Loughborough	32	6	4	22	29	61	20
Rugby	32	5	2	25	21	60	
N'wich	29	10	1	18	18		

Hallmark Security

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
City REMYCA	32	20	7	8	38	52	67
Lynd Remyca	31	20	4	7	38	38	64
W'chur Athl	31	20	4	7	38	38	64
Black Utd	30	19	4	7	38	38	64
Alcester	28	18	4	6	34	58	
Charnock R.	28	18	3	7	35	39	
Widnes	28	16	6	7	44	54	
P'wich H'ghs	28	16	6	7	44	54	
Stockport	32	14	7	11	72	72	
Headle	33	16	4	12	72	72	
FC Oswestry	31	13	5	15	65	44	
Waddington	32	12	9	11	65	44	
St Helens	30	12	6	12	65	44	
Slidons	29	13	15	6	65	41	
Carlisle City	29	13	15	6	65	41	
Holker Utd	28	14	14	6	61	34	
Daisy Hill	28	14	14	6	61	34	
Bacup Boro	30	7	5	18	30	61	26
Blackburn	32	7	7	21	30	61	26
Althorpe	30	6	3	22	30	61	26
Eccleall	30	3	4	23	103	13	
Ashton	27	2	2	23	30	91	8

Midland Football

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Alcechurh	33	23	6	4	78	25	65
Alcechurh	31	21	7	3	43	21	
Lye	30	18	7	5	58	26	61
Westfields	30	16	8	6	78	46	56
Sp'g Khalsa	27	16	3	6	37	53	
Walsall	30	14	8	8	54	50	
Heanor	30	14	8	8	54	50	
Coventry Utd	31	15	5	10	40	50	
Hy'caton Utd	30	11	12	17	42	40	
Walsall	30	11	13	16	39	50	
Co Sp'g	30	10	12	15	60	50	
Rocester	30	9	10	15	54	61	37
Walsall	30	11	17	42	32		
L'boro Utd	32	8	11	13	54	54	
Bolton	31	9	8	14	42	47	35
Wulfrunians	31	10	5	16	40	51	
Sheff Utd	30	9	12	19	37	25	
Sheff Utd	29	9	13	21	41	36	34
Sp'g Swifts	29	9	12	17	47	54	33
H'gate Utd	28	5	3	20	37	72	
Widowson	31	6	2	23	77	22	
Tivdale	30	6	2	21	39	72	

Welsh Premier League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
The New Saints	24	22	1	1	79	15	67
Bala	25	14	7	4	48	30	
Walsall	25	14	7	4	48	30	
Bangor City	25	13	9	3	42	40	
Carmarthen AFC25	9	7	9	32	31		
Swansea Utd	9	7	9	32	31		
Newtown	25	7	11	33	36	28	
Cardiff Druids	25	6	11	29	43	26	
Albany Athletic	25	6	7	35	39		
Rhyf. FC	25	7	15	31	61		
Airbus AC B'nton	25	4	7	17	28	56	

Huws Gray Alliance

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Prestatyn	23	21	2	0	97	23	65
Barnardby	24	16	4	3	39	33	
Flint Utd	24	14	4	6	56	34	
Portmadoc	24	2	9	57	39	44	
Corwen	24	10	7	7	38	39	
Gulfield	21	10	4	7	38	31	
Caersws	23	10	4	10	45	33	
H'gh H'ghs	25	9	11	43	42	32	
Penrhyn	23	6	7	35	39		
Pennant	23	6	11	29	38	24	
Ruthin	24	6	2	16	31	62	20
Mid Alx	23	6	1	15	34	75	20
Conwy Borough	24	5	2	17	42	77	
Buckley	24	5	2	17	31	66	17



THIS year's popular Shrewsbury Cycle Grand Prix will have the support of Salop Leisure, the award-winning caravan, motorhome and camper dealership.

The Emstrey-based company has agreed to become a sponsor of the event, which is set to attract around 300 professional and amateur riders and thousands of spectators to Shrewsbury on May 28. The main sponsor is Stan's Cycles - Trek Concept Store. Launched in 2014, the Shrewsbury Grand Prix is a British Cycling backed event and a nationally ranked race. Riders race around a 1.4 kilometre closed circuit in the town centre allowing spectators to get a close-up view of the wheel-to-wheel action. There will be seven races throughout the day, ranging from children under the age of 10, juniors

and women to the best amateurs and male elite riders. The elite race will involve a larger field of 60 riders and the organisers hope to attract some big names.

As it will be the only national 'A' class race in the country on May 28 and offers £2,000 elite prize money, many top racers are expected to enter. Last year's winner was World 'Madison' champion Albert Torres. Chris Cook, of Shrewsbury-based estate agents Cooper Green Pooks, co-organises the event with Ben Lawrence of insurance brokers Beaumont Lawrence. ■ Preparing for Grand Prix are (from left) Sam Blackburn, sales manager of Stan's Cycles - Trek Concept, organiser and sponsor Chris Pook from Cooper Green Pooks and sponsor Ed Glover, Salop Leisure's marketing manager.

Spar Mid Wales League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Rhayader	24	16	5	3	61	21	57
Berran	24	16	5	3	61	21	57
Carno	22	13	7	2	59	29	46
Aberystwyth	23	11	6	4	45	35	39
Bow Street	23	11	6	4	45	35	39
Llanfyllter	19	11	3	8	43	36	36
Hay St Mary's	22	9	5	8	54	43	32
Knightsbridge	21	9	7	29	32	37	
Churchtown	18	10	4	4	38	33	
L'ford Wells	19	7	10	13	40	45	24
Radnor Valley	19	6	10	13	41	41	24
Preseli	22	6	14	30	60	20	
Welshpool	23	3	17	19	56	12	
Montgomery	22	1	0	21	13	82	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kerry	19	15	2	5	44	20	
Borth Utd	18	12	2	4	48	28	
Dolgellau	21	10	6	4	47	38	36
Churchtown	18	10	4	4	38	33	
N'bridge-on-Wye	19	10	3	6	51	42	
Buith Wells	22	8	5	9	45	55	29
Aberystwyth	22	8	6	4	48	36	36
Penryn	22	8	6	4	48	36	36
Dyffryn Barrow	17	7	2	8	26	32	
L'ford Valley	19	6	10	13	41	41	24
FC Oswestry	31	13	5	15	65	44	
Walsall	30	14	8	8	54	50	
Bangor City	25	13	9	3	42	40	
Carmarthen AFC25	9	7	9	32	31		

West Midlands League

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Haughmond	28	25	1	2	106	26	76
W'chur Athl	27	18	2	7	88	51	56
Malvern	27	16	8	3	88	51	56
Wellingham	29	15	6	8	70	55	
Shillington	29	10	4	15	43	22	
W'chur Athl	31	10	10	10	71	61	

Greenhouse Shrewsbury

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Athletic Market	18	2	3	51	36	26	
Intestines Utd	11	8	1	2	42	17	
Cruckton Rvs	9	2	1	36	16	20	
Pontesbury	14	5	4	5	43	31	
Rock Rvs Yth	10	5	0	5	25	20	
Shillington	12	4	1	6	29	15	
Kinnerley	13	4	3	6	28	15	
The Gates	14	3	7	7	27	44	
Concor Rovers	14	3	7	27	44		

Division 1

St Martins	21	5	2	14	38	72	17
St C Stafford	19	5	3	11	44	68	15
Team Dudley	25	4	5	16	41	66	14

Division 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hereford Jnrns	21	13	3	5	74	33	42
Walscott	20	13	5	2	57	26	41
W Brom Utd	20	12	3	5	51	25	39
Brosely	18	10	2	6	40	37	32
W Ton Utd	20	10	1	9	49	58	31
Malvern Res	22	8	4	10	50	52	28
Tipton Yth	22	7	4	11	45	58	25
W Stone Wdars	17	7	3	7	39	42	24
Jornal Colts	18	7	3	8	34	37	24
Wander Vaults	18	8	2	8	39	45	23
Winkler Hunters	20	6	4	10	48	66	22

Perfect ten as Village players go goal-crazy

ST Martins Village went goal crazy in the Mercian Regional League division one with a 10-0 hammering of Albrighton.

They struggled in the first half, led by just one goal, before running riot in the to net nine more times, with Jamie Hands leading the way with a hat-trick and Joe Roberts scoring a brace.

Victory took the villagers up to seventh in the table, three places above FC OSWESTRY Town reserves who went down 3-2 away to Newport Town reserves.

GOBOWEN CELTIC are back on track in the premier division after seeing off Shifnal United 97 4-2 with Ian Heathcock and Joe Pierpoint both netting twice in a much needed win.

Meanwhile, TREWERN UNITED's promotion hopes in the Montgomeryshire two suffered a blow after going down 3-0 at home to Llangedwyn.

A second half hat-trick from Josh Astley saw Llanfair United under-19s overcome their Llanfyllin counterparts 3-0 to progress to the semi-finals of the Central Wales Cup.

■ Hay St Marys reserves too a huge stride towards the Watson Financial Mid Wales League (South) title with a 3-2 victory at Talgarth Town.

The hosts looked on course for the spoils having led through Harry Sharman and Kyle O'Shea but the Saints hit back with a Josh Wisniewski double and a penalty from Darren Horrighan. Hay are now six points behind the leaders with four games in hand.

Brecon Northcote maintained their challenge with Craig Evans, Joel Evans (pen) and Fraser McNally on target in a 3-1 verdict at Newcastle who replied through Calum Evans.

Elsewhere, Jordan McFadden continued his recovery from long term injury by grabbing the only goal as Rhayader Town Reserves won 1-0 at Penybont reserves.

Harrison sees top boss award go elsewhere

TNS chief Craig Harrison has missed out on a sixth consecutive Welsh Premier manager of the month award.

Harrison has dominated the monthly managerial honours this season following his side's stunning campaign that resulted in a record breaking 27 straight wins in all competitions.

But his monopoly has been ended by Newtown boss Chris Hughes who has been named manager of the month for January/February.

Hughes' accolade came after the Robins became the first side to take a point from the champions-elect TNS this season when drawing 3-3 at Llantham Park last month.

Since that result, Newtown have gone from strength to strength by winning all three of their fixtures so far in the second phase to climb out of the relegation zone.

Busy Morda's five matches in eight days

HAVING again been without a fixture at the weekend, Morda United now have three games scheduled over an eight-day period.

In midweek, they travelled to play under lights away at Caersws Reserves in a Montgomeryshire League division one fixture.

On Saturday they are due to host Berriew in the Village Cup with a 2.30pm kick off at Weston Road, before playing under lights again the following Tuesday (7.30pm) away to Guilsfield in the Montgomeryshire Cup.

With several promising young players having recently signed, the club hopes it now has the squad to cope with this demanding programme.

New Saints dig deep as late goal wins it

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

HOLDERS The New Saints were made to battle all the way before booking their ticket for the JD Welsh Cup semi-finals with a 2-1 extra-time win over Bangor City at Park Hall.

The outcome was in the balance throughout before substitute Adrian Cieslewicz pounced for the winner with four minutes remaining to sink the gutsy Citizens who had played the extra period with 10 men.

Despite having Yalany Baio sent off for a second yellow card in the 86th minute of a scoreless 90, the visitors took the lead in extra-time through Henry Jones.

But Greg Draper, another substitute, levelled on the stroke of the interval in the extra period, before Cieslewicz netted a late winner to set up a semi-final meeting with Welsh Premier rivals Gap Connah's Quay.

After suffering back-to-back defeats, TNS boss Craig Harrison was delighted to return to winning ways and progress in a trophy his side have lifted for the last three years.

"It was a very awkward game. It was end to end, the game had everything, so we're glad to be through," he said.

"It was important for us to get to the semi-final, but we knew it was going to be tough as Bangor are a good side, very good on the counter attack.

"They caused us problems, but in terms of possession and chances I feel we deserve to be through."

Bangor, an improving force these days, arrived with a positive mindset, and sounded an early warning on nine minutes when Daniel Nardiello was denied by keeper Paul Harrison after breaking through.

The Citizens were forced into an early reshuffle on 15 minutes as the injured Paul Connolly was replaced by Brazilian forward Rodrigo Branco.

Keeper Connor Roberts was in fine form in goal for the visitors, pulling off several smart saves to keep his side in the hunt.

The Bangor stopper denied Wes Fletcher from a tight angle and an Aeron Edwards' headed effort from a Chris Marriott free kick, before making a terrific point blank save from Scott Quigley on the half hour.

The visitors themselves had strong claims for a penalty turned down after a challenge on Nardiello who also shot wide from another lively raid as City gave as good as they got.

After the break, Roberts continued to impress with two terrific saves within a minute to deny Quigley and Edwards, while Gary Taylor-Fletcher forced a good save from Harrison at the other end on 73 minutes.

Bangor's hopes of victory suffered a setback when Baio was dismissed after picking up his second caution with four minutes of normal time remaining.

Despite being a man short, the Citizens stood firm, and took the lead four minutes into extra time when Jones turned in the box to beat Harrison.

TNS hit back when Draper finally found a way past Roberts when latching onto a pass on the break before slotting home on the stroke of the first half of extra time.

The forward went close to a second when rattling the bar but, with extra time looming, Cieslewicz broke City's hearts with a late winner after jinking his way into space.

Llanfair semi-final dream dashed



Llanfair United striker Jamie Davies checks to see what danger is lurking. ■ Pic: Stuart Townsend.

LLANFAIR United's dreams of a place in the JD Welsh Cup semi-finals were shattered after being humbled 7-0 by Cymru Alliance rivals Caernarfon Town at the Mount Field.

Having reached the last eight for the first time in the club's history, United had realistic hopes of going even further in the competition against a side they had defeated in the league this season.

But they were downed in emphatic fashion by an impressive Caernarfon outfit that made light of the heavy conditions to run out 7-0 winners to progress to the last four for the first time in 29 years.

Llanfair soon had their back to the walls after making a dreadful start to their first ever quarter-final appearance in the prestigious competition.

The visitors were two goals to the good inside the first 12 minutes through Gareth Edwards and Kevin Lloyd, with Edwards (24) adding a third before half-time.

Earlier in the competition, Llanfair overturned a three-goal interval deficit against Flint Town United, but there was to be no way back this time as the Canaries turned the screw in the second

period. Former Welshpool striker Jamie Breese netted twice after the break on 48 and 63 minutes, with Darren Thomas (76) and Clive Williams (81) completing the rout.

Caernarfon never looked back after taking a fifth minute lead when Llanfair's Matt Spencer cleared off the line from Breese, only for Edwards to rise above his marker to head the ball past Chris Brown.

The Canaries were looking sharp and confident, and doubled their lead in the 12th minute when Lloyd arrived late in the six yard area to volley into the bottom right hand corner.

Town were rampant at this stage and went further ahead in the 24th minute when Nathan Craig's free kick in the centre circle found Edwards at the far post and the big defender finished well to complete his brace.

The hosts may have been stunned to find themselves three down with just a quarter of the match gone, but they showed great heart to persevere and continue to work hard.

Marc Jones threatened on the half hour mark when he narrowly failed to make contact with the

ball just six yards out after Caernarfon had failed to deal with a cross. Clive Williams, making his first appearance for the Cofis in a month, came to his side's rescue soon after when he superbly blocked a James Davies shot.

Caernarfon went further ahead three minutes after the restart when Breese latched on to a poor clearance from a Craig corner and fired past Brown.

The striker thought he had found the net again two minutes later but his low effort flew inches wide of the left hand post with Brown stranded on his line.

Breese, however, made no mistake with his next effort when he sprinted past two defenders on the way into the area and finished comfortably past Brown.

The Canaries added two further goals to complete the rout, with Thomas and Williams putting the finishing touches to a stunning victory that now sees them take on Bala Town - who overcame Guilsfield 3-0 - in the semi-final on April 1.

It was a disappointing end to a fine cup run, but Llanfair's focus can now return to the business of staving off relegation from the Cymru Alliance.

Berriew's title charge suffers blow in the storms

TWO second half goals from Iain Edmunds saw Llanrhaeadr put a dent in Berriew's title aspirations in the Spar Mid Wales League division one with a 3-1 home win in atrocious conditions.

With leaders Rhayader Town's home clash with struggling Montgomery Town postponed due to a waterlogged surface, the Rhiewsid-ers had a chance to close the gap to one point with a victory.

But Dave Jones' side found themselves bogged down on a sodden pitch as they slipped to a first league defeat since August.

They had started well enough with top scorer Richard Davies slotting past keeper Connor Lee, but Llan rallied to take the three points.

Defeat was a big setback for Berriew who remain four points behind high flying Rhayader, but have now played the same amount of games.

Third placed CARNO failed to make up ground after being held 2-2 at Llanidloes Town in a hard-fought derby encounter at Victoria Avenue.

Rhys Evans gave the Daffs the lead, Peter Rees levelled at the break, before Richie Evans gave the visitors a 2-1 advantage.

In an increasingly feisty affair in the second half, Carno then had goalscorer Rees sent off for violent conduct, and Ioan Humphreys was also red-carded for a poor challenge to leave the visitors with nine players.

Llani pressed for a leveller, and earned their reward through Ed Clarke with five minutes to go, but were denied a winner despite a late spell of pressure.

With games running out, WELSHPOOL remain deep in basement trouble despite their battling 2-2 draw at Hay St Mary's.

The draw leaves them two points adrift of nearest rivals Tywyn Bryn-ncrug with just three matches to play

Joey Pice scored scored twice as Radnor Valley ran out convincing 3-1 home winners against Machynlleth, Elliot Morris getting the other.

Second division high fliers KERRY, without a league game, saw their lead at the top trimmed to nine points after Borth United put paid to Presteigne 5-1 at Aberystwyth's Park Avenue ground.

FOUR CROSSES, lying second bottom in division two, slipped deeper into the basement mire after their 3-1 home reverse to CHURCHSTOKE who themselves are going well in fourth spot.

Mid-table Abermule were edged out 2-1 at Builth Wells.

Llany move up to fifth after victory

MEIFOD'S title hopes in the Montgomeryshire League division one suffered a blow after going down 3-2 at home to improving Llannymynech.

The impressive victory lifted Llannymynech up to fifth in the table, and they will hope to keep up the good work with four home games this month, starting with Llanfair reserves on Saturday.

Keeper Matt Prince was in fine form to help keep Meifod at bay, with all the goals coming in the second half.

Callum Whyte got Llany's first from the penalty spot after Sam Roberts had been brought down in the box, and Whyte doubled the lead.

Substitute Michael Edwards made it three with a thumping strike into the top left corner, before Meifod rallied in the last 15 minutes.

The hosts pulled back two goals to set up a tense finish, but Llany held out for an important three points.

In division two, fourth placed Maesyrhandir's promotion hopes were dealt a setback after succumbing 2-1 at Newtown Wanderers

Welshpool Town reserves saw off Trefonen 5-3 to register their second win of the season.

Guilsfield cup hopes are sunk by Bala

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

Bala were applying pressure, with Wade's run forcing the Guils to clear before moments later top scorer Mike Hayes was deemed offside after some good play.

The home side had few opportunities, but Chris Cathrall turned John Irving but his strike was saved by keeper Ashley Morris before Stuart Jones hacked the ball away a scramble in the six-yard box.

Hayes had a superb chance to give Town the lead when, after outpacing the defence, he had just Littleford to beat but he drove his shot straight at the stopper. Town continued to press but were lacking in the final third as crosses from Wade and Dave Thompson were cleared with ease before Mark Jones fired over from the edge of the box.

However, just before the interval, Bala got their noses in front after successive corners led to a good spell of pressure, which resulted in Stephens' cross being pushed out to Wade who drove the ball home.

After the break, the Guils struggled to create many chances, although Jake Cook failed to find the target with a free header when well placed.

At the other end, Hayes had a shot blocked and

Wade blazed over the woodwork from the rebound as the home defence survived.

However, the introduction of substitute Jordan Evans saw more pace injected into Bala's play, with the midfielder carving an opening only to be denied by Littleford. Guilsfield's hopes of retrieving the tie faded as Bala doubled their lead when Venables drove a fine shot from the edge of the area into the bottom left hand corner following some fine work between Wade and Kieran Smith.

Victory was wrapped up four minutes from time when a flowing team move from box to box set up Irving to slot home from three yards out.

Victory secured Bala's place in the Welsh Cup semi-final for the fourth time in the club's history and they will now face Caernarfon Town - 7-0 conquerors of Llanfair United - at a neutral venue on the first weekend of April.

Meanwhile, CAERSWS' home clash with Holyhead Hotspur in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch at the Recreation Ground.

Ten-man Penrhynoch remain close to relegation danger in the Cymru Alliant after being downed 3-0 at Gresford Athletic - all the goals coming in the second half.

Glamorgan youngster bowls into Morda Road

GLAMORGAN rookie Roman Walker has joined Oswestry ahead of their new campaign in division two of the Birmingham Cricket League.

The 16-year-old fast bowler from North Wales League side Marchwiel and Wrexham has already opened the bowling for Glamorgan Second XI.

The 6ft 3ins youngster has played for Wales at all age groups, and made his debut for the Principality's under-17 side two years ago when he was just 14 years of age.

"Roman comes to us highly recommended and we've been to watch him at indoor nets," said Oswestry skipper Robbie Clarke.

"He'll be a real handful opening the attack, and he's a useful middle order batsman as well."

Returning to Oswestry is wicketkeeper/ batsman Dean Suter, who has been playing for Shelton in the Shropshire League.

Suter was a key player in the Oswestry sides that won the Shropshire League championship in 2009 and the Birmingham League divisions three and two titles in 2012-13.

"It's great to have Sutes back," said Clarke. "He's one of the best keepers in Shropshire and a talented batsman."

On the downside, Oswestry have lost both opening bowlers from last season, and are busy seeking a replacement. Clarke's predecessor as captain Jonathan Miles, has moved to live in Norfolk, while former Shropshire paceman Dan Bowen has returned to his home town club Whitchurch.

"Obviously that leaves us a fast bowler short, and we will definitely be bringing in someone else," said Clarke.

Oswestry have arranged a pre-season friendly against Whitchurch for April 22, with the first team away and the seconds at home.

The Morda Road men start their Birmingham League division two campaign with a trip to C and R Hawks the following Saturday.

MMA's ace Small wins big on road

DARYL Small from Team Elite Mixed Martial Arts (MMA) in Oswestry stormed to a resounding victory after stepping into a Light Featherweight No-Gi Jujitsu super fight competition at short notice.

Small made the most of his chance at the Empire Grappling Invitational event in Manchester after being drafted in as a late replacement when the original opponent pulled out due to injury.

He made short work of the experienced Kieran Flaherty, from Combat Fighting Systems in London, to win the match, scheduled for 10 minutes, in just 28 seconds.

Delighted with the win, Small thanked all his coaches who helped him prepare for the competition at such short notice.

Ellesmere are looking for light relief

ELLESMERE RANGERS head to Crown Meadow to face AFC Bridgnorth for the second time this season on Saturday.

The original meeting between the clubs in the West Midlands League premier division in December was abandoned when the floodlights went out after 55 minutes with Ellesmere 4-0 up.

Rangers were frustrated to emerge empty handed from a 4-3 defeat at lowly Dudley Town last Saturday. Scott Ryan netted twice as Rangers led 3-2 well into the second half. But they were unable to press home their advantage and conceded a Dudley winner five minutes from time.

At last! Eagles win to book semi spot

RUGBY by John Bridgwater

OSWESTRY'S rugby players ended their long wait for a victory when overcoming Woodrush 23-14 in an enthralling North Midlands Shield quarter-final clash at Granville Park.

It has been a tough campaign for the Eagles who prop up the South Lancs and Cheshire One with 18 losses and draw this term.

But they had a weekend to savour after continuing their improvements by defeating their opponents from south Birmingham to earn a welcome victory that keeps their flag flying in the Shield competition.

On a cold and wet afternoon, and on a difficult playing pitch, the Eagles showed early attacking intent to set the scene for a terrific display of rugby.

The were soon on the attack and took the lead in the opening minutes with an excellent try from Luca Owen-Youens who outpaced the defence to score in the corner helped by some fine off loading down the wing.

Now in full flight, the Eagles attacked the Woodrush territory again and, having been held up by some stout defence from the men from Birmingham, more slick play saw the ball passed to the quick Gaz Hughes who darted through the Woodrush defence to score in the corner for a 10-0 lead, the conversion again missed.

After being under he cosh, Woodrush hit back with their back line making some strong running before finding a way through the home defence to cross near the posts for a converted try.

Advantage

Buoyed by the score, the visitors were now attacking the home line with intent, but the Eagles held firm in resolute fashion to preserve their slender advantage.

After both teams conceded penalties, Oswestry now pushed forward and, after a good position on the 22-metre line, Owen-Youens again showed his immense strength to power over for another try, again unconverted.

Woodrush started the second half well, but were kept at bay by some fine kicking from Andy Howell who helped get his team out of trouble with his dependable boot.

Rolling forward, the visitors started to gain momentum only to be denied by some great try saving tackles to keep the line intact.

Then, out of the blue, some fantastic running rugby from impressive Fijian centre Viliame Masirewa opened the door for the supporting Gaz Ellis to touch down for a 20-7 lead.

Woodrush were in no mood to surrender and attacked the Oswestry line time and again before forcing their way over for a converted try.

But the Eagles were not to be denied a well earned victory, with a late penalty from Howell sealing an encouraging 23-14 win.

Boosted by the victory, the Eagles look to keep up the good work when they return to league duty at home to third placed Broughton Park on Saturday (2.15).

The Lanyard Bowdler and Hughes Brothers man-of-the-match was try scorer Gaz Ellis.

A further boost for Os saw loosehead prop Chris Hesketh come on as replacement after a long lay-off following a hip operation.

COBRA youngsters shine on tour



COBRA under-13s on the attack at Nant Conwy and (below) sliding in for a try in the tour match



COBRA'S young guns continue to impress after the club's under-13s came agonisingly close to ending Nant Conwy's proud unbeaten run in a tour game in North Wales.

Having not lost in two and a half years, Nant's fine record looked in jeopardy when they

trailed 7-5 to the plucky Meifod side.

However, the home team hit back in the second half to snatch a 19-7 victory to ensure their run remained intact courtesy of an interception try and a mistake from the visitors

It was only the third defeat for

the under-13s this season, while the under-11s are also impressing, and chalked up a resounding 60-0 victory over their Nant counterparts in their tour game.

COBRA's second team, meanwhile, bowed out of the Mid Wales Cup with a 35-0 exit at the hands of Aberystwyth University.

The latest returns from Shropshire golf clubs

HENLLE PARK

4BBB Pairs Comp: C Jones & W Jones 44pts; M Pugh-Jones & A Edwards 45pts (cb); M Elson & S Pape 43pts.

Seniors' Yellow Ball: G Bellis, M Cunningham & A James 107pts; T Dodd, J Bostock & A Elwin 99pts; B Milburn, F Thomas & R Harris 96pts.

LLANYMYNECH

Ladies' Ladies' Invitation to the Gentlemen Stableford, Canadian Greensomes Winners: D Chadwick and D Griffiths 48pts. Runner Up: P Sevant and B Suckley 46pts.

MILE END

Captains' Drive In Winners: R Pugh, M Tinsdale, G Manson, C Wildblood 132pts. Runners Up: G Harper, R Groot; R Burke, T Parkes 126pts. Third Place: J Barry, A Pugh, J Dean, S Smith 123pts.

Sunday Social: R Groot, R Adkins, J Cattaneo 43pts; J Turner, P Eke, B Jones 43pts; S Ball, A Eke, P Cattaneo 40pts.

Team Yellow Ball: R Wale, P Davies, T Rowlands 137pts; B Power, I Horler, S Smith 124pts; R Adkin, M Tisdale, M Godfrey 122pts.

OSWESTRY

Ladies' Draw For Partners, Birdy-Par-Boggy (18 Holes): P McLean, J Williams, A Colquhoun (HP) 109pts; A Garbet, A Davies, J Mitchell 107pts; D Jones, G Edge, M Brogden 100pts (cb); M Graper, M Alford, M Landgrebe 100pts (cb); R Wigley, A Barker, M Shakeshaft 99pts; K Jones, V Bondi, S Baxter 99pts; D Hall, M Green, V Challinor 88pts; A Colquhoun, B Bowley, J Bucknall 86pts.

(9 Holes): J Edwards, M Evans, S Wilson 56pts; B Bessington, R Morris, W Horan 47pts; P Derbyshire, S Kelly, G Ankers 42pts; J Goff, J Williams, J Shaw 41pts; E Gill, E Gwilt, J Davies 40pts; J Ferris, B Fone, B Wigley 38pts.

SHREWSBURY

Ladies' Nine Hole Odds & Evens Greensomes: L Hyne & M Scott 34pts; C Russell & H Fabian 35pts; P Henshaw & E Withers 35pts.

WREKIN

Seniors' Winter Stableford 10: B Carline 33/13; A Stokes 30/16; P Hewitt 30/19.

Twos: B Carline 7th; B France 4th.

Pool ladies hit back for superb win

WELSHPOOL Ladies showed plenty of resolve to hit back and produce a 4-2 win against Arduwy with another encouraging display in the North Wales Hockey League division one.

Trailing 2-1 after taking the lead through Sarah Thomas, Pool rallied in the second half to level with a second goal from Thomas courtesy of a penalty flick.

Beth Wyn Williams then put them ahead before Julie Griffith secured the spoils with a fourth goal to keep Pool on course for a high finish.

■ A disappointing 6-0 loss at Chester Ladies kept Oswestry Ladies fourth bottom in the Cheshire Women's Hockey League division two.

After suffering an eighth defeat of the season, they will want to bounce back on Saturday at home to Macclesfield Ladies who lie one place below.

Chester tied in 50th at the Joburg Open

SHROPSHIRE golfer Ashley Chesters tied for 50th spot at the Joburg Open.

In a European Tour event reduced to 54 holes due to heavy rain, the Hawkstone Park ace finished on seven under par after a final round of three under 69.

South Africa's Darren Fichardt held his nerve to win a fifth European Tour title.

Fichardt carded a closing 68 at Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Golf Club to finish 15 under par, a shot ahead of England's Paul Waring and Welshman Stuart Manley. All three qualify for The Open.

Chesters netted 4,535 euros in prize money.

The European Tour moves on to Pretoria, South Africa this Thursday, March 2.

GUILDSFIELD A guns shoot way to cup glory

SHOOTING by John Bridgwater

in the final.

The second semi-final saw Guildsfield A face Crew Green B which went all the way to the fifth shooter.

The Guilds took first blood only for Crew Green to level with a superb possible of 35.1 by Sue Brown.

The teams shared the next two matches to take the tie to the deciding shootout as Guildsfield's Matt Knight (34.4) held his nerve to beat Helen Lewis (34.1) to take the match 3-2.

Youngsters Aaron Knight and Jack Francis shared the shooter of the week award after both stood up to the pressure of head to head shooting against top class opposition and winning both their matches in the semis and final.

The match of the week was the head to head tussle between Richard Lewis (35.4) and Alan Baker (35.3), while Guildsfield A were no doubt the team of the week after winning their second trophy of the season.

Meanwhile, a small team from the Montgomeryshire League gave it their best shot at the 2017 Newport Open tournament where they did the

league proud by returning home with a nice haul of trophies. Shooters were placed into different groups depending on their year's average scores, ensuring that all shooters were placed with other shooters of the same shooting ability. They fired 10 shots with a maximum possible score of 100, with five shots in shoot offs with a possible score of 50.

In the Group A, after a three-way shoot-off to decide the final placings, Joe Hilditch (93+47) finished runner-up and Paul Gwilliam (93+44) came in third. Group B saw another shoot-off with Ian Brown (92+45) losing out by just one point to claim the runners-up spot. The league's 'queen of the bell' Sue Brown (89) took top spot in Group C with another superb shooting display.

The team of four, consisting of Ian Brown, Sue Brown, Gary Powell and Alan Baker, came away with a runners-up placing with a team combined score of (364 from 400), while missing out on top spot by one point.

The team of six, comprising Jane Thomas, Paul Gwilliam, Joe Hilditch, Sue Brown, Ian Brown and Alan Baker, also claimed the runners-up spot with a combined score of (552 from 600), again only losing out by one point.



Ex-COBRA man Dan in Wales call-up

DAN Owen, a former youth player with COBRA, has been rewarded for a series of fine performances with a national rugby squad call-up.

Llanrhaeadr-based Owen, who made his mark as a young flanker with the Meifod club, is one of only two North Wales representatives to be selected for the Wales under-18s squad after impressing during a recent training camp featuring players from across the country.

He has earned a call-up along with Henry Maitland-Davies, with both lads being Year 13 and 12 pupils at Rydal Penrhos. The duo are also members of the Rydal Penrhos Rugby Academy which is run in partnership with RGC and the Welsh Rugby Union.

Owen, aged 17, who played for COBRA's youth team a couple of years back, has enjoyed a stand-out season to date, captaining the Gogs' under-18s side, and making a number of senior appearances for Mark Jones' Principality Premiership high-fliers.

Hat-trick

Scrum half Davies has also made his presence felt as part of the RGC under-18s team and scored a superb hat-trick for the young Gogs in the narrow WRU Age Grade defeat to Cardiff Blues at Parc Eirias.

RGC player-coach Josh Leach, said: "This is obviously a great achievement for both the players and the school, so many congratulations to all."

Both players will now begin training with the national squad in the hope of catching the eye further to secure a place in the 35-man squad later this year.

Rydal director of Sport Allen Boyd, added: "This is a fantastic achievement and congratulations go to Dan and Henry on their national selection."

"For them to be the only two players from the RGC/North Wales region selected is great news, particularly here at Rydal Penrhos, and just shows how beneficial being a part of our academy here can be. I am thrilled that they have made it through to the Wales squad."

Eagles look to soar now after first win

IT was a big day for Oswestry's rugby players who ended their long wait for a victory when overcoming Woodrush 23-14 in the North Midlands Shield quarter final at Granville Park.

The Eagles have suffered a tough season, and prop up the South Lincs and Cheshire One with 18 losses and one draw this term.

But they had a weekend to savour by defeating their opponents from south Birmingham to earn a welcome victory that keeps their flag flying in the Shield competition.

Boosted by the victory, the Eagles now look to maintain their improvements when they return to league duty at home to third placed Broughton Park on Saturday (2.15pm).

Prop Chris Hesketh is now back in the plans after coming on as replacement last weekend following a long lay-off due to a hip operation.

New Saints on brink of league title

FOOTBALL by John Bridgwater

before running out 2-1 extra-time winners to keep their flag flying in the Welsh Cup, boss Craig Harrison will be taking nothing for granted.

"Last week was a very awkward game, it was end to end, the game had everything, so we are glad to be through," he said.

"They are a good side, good on the counter-attack, and caused us problems and I imagine it will be some kind of game this week as both sides have an attacking style of play."

City will want to put the record straight after

suffering four losses to TNS this season, twice in the league as well as in the Nathaniel MG Cup and Welsh Cup.

The Saints remain on course for an historic third successive domestic treble - and now meet Welsh Premier Gap Connah's Quay in the last four of the cup. In the other semi-final, Bala Town will take on Cymru Alliance side Caernarfon Town. Neutral venues to be confirmed, with the ties to be played on Saturday, April 1.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

Sky Sports presenter Jeff Stelling will be the headline guest at TNS' annual celebration dinner at the Venue, Park Hall, on Wednesday, April 26.

SUDLOW WANTS ENGLISH TITLE

BOXING by John Bridgwater

BOXER Bobby Sudlow was in knockout form as he made short work of his Midlands Heavyweight semi-pro title defence - and now targets national glory in the summer.

In front of 300 spectators at a packed Lion Quays - the biggest boxing gala Oswestry has seen for 30 years - the 36-year-old stormed to a first round victory over his Lancashire opponent Jamie Leishman.

After his rival took an early standing count following a body blow, Sudlow finished the job inside a minute with a knockout.

It was his second successful defence of the Midlands semi-professional heavyweight belt he won for the first time last November, and the boxer from St Martins could now be back at the Lion Quays on June 24 to fight for the English title.

With 11 fighters on the bill last weekend, Sudlow was last in the ring at midnight, but it was well worth the wait as he quickly polished off his opponent from Haslingden, Lancashire.

"It was a brilliant night, with brilliant support, and it was great to be fighting for the first time in Oswestry," said Sudlow who has only been fighting competitively for 12 months.

"I can't get any better than that, and I'm ready to go for an English title now."

"I trained hard and felt really fit and strong going into the fight."

"Each time, I'm coming up against better fighters, and feel I'm improving all the time."

"My trainer texted me that I could now be going for the English title on June 24, again at the Lion Quays, but it has to be confirmed."

"I now plan to have a month off, then start training again in April and may have one more fight before the English title."

It's been whirlwind year for Sudlow who, taking inspiration from his father Ricky's battle against lung cancer, first took to the ring last March to raise money for the Lingen Davies Centre in Shrewsbury.

Since then, he has proved a big hit in the sport and has now had five successful fights in the last 12 months, four having been knockouts.

Young guns hope to be big hit



Boxing hopefuls (from left): Jonty Turnbull, club sponsor Chris Wood and Harry Roberts

TWO teenage boxers from St Martins look to give it their best shot in the Welsh Junior Championships this weekend.

Fifteen-year-olds Jonty Turnbull (70kg) and Harry Roberts (57kg), aer both members of the Maclor Boxing Club in Wrexham, and will be hoping to prove a hit in the event staged in Swansea.

Jonty is three times Welsh and British champion, and Harry is a three times finalist, while

the boys have represented North Wales in winning teams against Ireland and South Wales.

They have been training hard in preparation and last Sunday went to Llandudno for final sparring under guidance of top North Wales regional coach Darrel Jones, of Clwyd ABC, whom they have impressed.

The Maclor Boxing Club, meanwhile, has a new sponsor in Chris Wood of Trade Safe in Wrexham.

Llanfair and Guils look to bounce back

LLANFAIR United and Guilsfield will both look to pick themselves up from Welsh Cup exits when they resume their campaigns in the Huws Gray Cymru Alliance this week.

After their 7-0 drubbing at the hands of Caernarfon Town, Llanfair have little time to dwell on their cup woe when they head to Holywell Town on Wednesday night before visiting basement rivals Conwy Borough on Saturday.

Lying third bottom, they need to quickly start picking up points if they hope to preserve their Cymru Alliance status.

"It would have been nice to still be in the Welsh Cup, but now it's done and dusted, we can now focus on the league without any distractions," said boss Rhys Stephens.

"We've got 10 big games coming up, and we want to be playing in the Cymru Alliance next season."

"The lads were gutted, but it was still an achievement to reach the quarter-finals for the first time which brought in money we never thought we would have at the start of the season."

GUILSFIELD, beaten 3-0 at home to Bala Town in their quarter-final tie, face a tough league clash at home to Llanfair's conquerors, Caernarfon Town, on Saturday.

Boss Dan Barton will now be looking for his side - who currently lie seventh in the table - to finish their league campaign in style.

"We did well to get to the quarter-finals of the cup, but we need to kick on now and look for more consistency in the league," he said.

"We've got a tough game against Caernarfon Town on Saturday."

Barton felt Bala fully deserved their victory at Closs Myotton, but was disappointed his side did not give the Welsh Premier side a greater test.

"I was disappointed that we did not have a really good go at them," he said.

Tinsley looking to make Town return

STRIKER Dan Tinsley is set to make his return for FC Oswestry Town in Saturday's North West Counties League division one trip to Chorley club Charnock Richard.

Tinsley joined from Shropshire rivals Whitchurch Alport earlier in the season, but played just a few minutes before picking up a foot injury.

That kept him on the sidelines for some three months, but he is now expected to be back to action this weekend for the tricky clash at sixth placed Charnock Richard who handed out a 5-0 drubbing when the sides met at Park Hall back in December.

"Dan's going to be a big player for us, we just need to get him back on the pitch," said manager Mike Barton.

"He will give us physical presence up front. He's looked sharp in training."

Town, who lie 11th in the table, hope to be close to full strength for the trip to Lancashire as they look to push higher up the league.

They had no action last weekend as their trip to Bolton club Daisy Hill was postponed due to a waterlogged pitch.



Membership available now

For more details please contact the secretary John Evans (Secretary)

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